Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Contacts Official on Hurricane Measures

FL1309161988 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2326 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Report by Jorge Luis Batista from Bayamo]

[Text] Rains have been minimal here in Bayamo. It is only sprinkling at this time. Some 40,000 people have been evacuated in Granma Province, according to reports from the Defense Council Provincial Staff, where I am at this time. The heaviest rains fell today in the Jiguani and Guisa municipalities. It was reported that primary schools and child care centers will reopen tomorrow in the urban areas of the 13 municipalities of Granma Province. Work centers and transportation services will also go back to normal tomorrow.

Finally, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made contact with Roberto Damian Alfonso Gonzalez, president of Granma Province's Defense Council, who is in Pilon municipality. Comrade Commander in Chief Fidel Castro showed interest in the measures being implemented in Granma Province during the hurricane threat. He also congratulated the people from Granma Province and especially those from Pilon municipality for the measures implemented during this hurricane threat.

Work Group Continues Discussing Cadre Policy

FL0609225088 [Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 6 September carries, on the "Open Agenda" program, the second part of a panel discussion concerning the country's cadre policy.

Moderator Pedro Rojas introduces the panel, which is composed of Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and chief of the work group on cadre policy; Guido Urrutia, member of the work group on cadre policy; Ana Maria Quesada, director of an industrial container enterprise of the Light Industry Ministry; Juan Manuel Rodriguez, director of a construction and specialized assembly enterprise of the Construction Ministry, and Arlene Rodriguez, journalist of JUVENTUD REBELDE.

Pedro Rojas asks when cadres should be replaced, whether age should be a decisive factor in the replacement of cadres, and whether all cadres should be replaced by the new generation.

Arlene Rodriguez says she opposes cadres being replaced by a new generation. She cites Roberto Robaina, president of the Union of Young Communists, who said the new generation has the privilege of living among the people who made the revolution possible. She notes that some older leaders have fresher ideas than many young cadres, and gives Fidel Castro as an example.

Juan Manuel Rodriguez asserts that various age groups should be represented among cadres and that all of them have different functions. The older ones have the experience and should train the rest. The middle-aged cadres can be more receptive to the ideas of the old and the young. The younger cadres have all the energy and the theoretical background.

Casas Regueiro says "Our cadre policy has never been plagued with generational limitations. Those who meet the requirements of a cadre have always been included. This has been a basic principle since a cadre policy was created. Therefore, at this stage we all agree that [words indistinct] does not exist and will never exist. We don't need to dwell on this. The important thing is that these generational issues are used to justify comrades continuing in their posts despite the fact others are more efficient than them. This is a problem. There are comrades who are older, who are 55 or 50 years old—age alone is not the problem. The problem is that they have limitations, normal physical and intellectual limitations. There are other comrades who are an exception because they have a better mental and physical condition and can continue going on. I believe a comrade should remain in a post until there is another one who is better qualified than him. When another more efficient one appears, the one in the position should make room for him. The matter should not be considered a generational one. The issue here is efficiency." Casas Regueiro says he insists on this "because there is still a lot of misunderstood paternalism, a lot of misunderstood cronyism regarding comrades who have a certain age or a certain track record. I believe that we have to be very firm on this issue, very decisive. We need to ask our enterprises, our directors, to be strict and comply strictly with this principle." He says "a considerable number of enterprises in the country have this problem."

Urrutia notes the importance of job evaluations to determine if a cadre should continue in his post. He says evaluations should be comprehensive and include the cadre's performance, and his political, ideological, and moral characteristics.

Casas Regueiro says job evaluations are the backbone of the cadre policy. He explains that he has proposed the creation of a cadre commission in each enterprise or organization so that the evaluation is a result of collective discussions and not of a single person. He says a considerable number of poor evaluations have been made by individuals. Casas Regueiro asserts that "recently the PCC Secretariat agreed to have the nucleus at the enterprise level participate in the evaluation of each of the cadres, especially in the nucleus in which the cadre is a member." He adds that "the party has a lot of power to control the cadre policy in an active way."

Responding to a question posed by the moderator on cadre discipline, Casas Regueiro says that more demands should be placed on cadres because cadres represent the state in enterprises. He adds that inspections have been

carried out throughout the provinces and they have found that appointments have been made without the proper documents validating the appointments. This, he says, is an act of indiscipline. He notes that the indiscipline problem has not been solved in the country.

On the matter of training of cadres, Quesada explains that she has three workers who are being trained to take over her position at the appropriate time. She says she has evaluated these persons, identified the areas in which they need to improve, and given them specific tasks to overcome their weaknesses. One of them, she adds, has actually been acting in her position whenever she has been away.

The 44-minute program ends with a brief video clip of Raul Castro speaking about cadre policy. According to the caption, the speech was made on 3 May 1985.

Port Emergency Situation 'Remains Tense'

FL0809134788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Almost 2 weeks have passed since the port emergency was declared and the situation in our ports remains tense.

Approximately 3,000 to 4,000 tons of merchandise is being unloaded and transported daily in unit No 4, named after Haiphong, in Havana port. Those organizations that have respondedly more quickly include the Minfar [Ministry of the FAR], Micons [Construction Ministry], Agriculture Ministry, and the people's government.

Nevertheless, there are still many factors which affect the proper functioning of the port-transportation network. For example, since last Saturday many vehicles have been waiting at this terminal in Havana for veterinary authorization allowing them to transport the merchandise.

The workers response has been exemplary. They have donated volunteer hours and have worked intensely to eliminate the congestion. However, there are subjective situations that affect the technical-economic plan.

Moving Containers Stressed

FL1209221388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretary Pedro Ross today called on the members of the port-transportation-internal economy network to concentrate on moving containers in order to fulfill the goal set for unloading and transporting merchandise.

Ross stressed that the port support plan has had very positive results so far, although there are a few problems that need to be solved, such as the problem of unloading and transporting containers.

Drought No Excuse for Low Tuber Productivity

FL1009122988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Julian Rizo Alvarez [secretary and member of the PCC Central Committee] has said that the drought can no longer be used to justify not fulfilling the production goals for tubers. He added that individual responsibility will be demanded from agriculture officials.

The agriculture sector has planned an intense production program this year for harvesting 38 million quintals of tubers, grains, fruits, and vegetables.

Agriculture Workers Intensify Harvest Activities

FL0809225588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Over 14,000 state agriculture workers have given up or postponed their summer vacations to intensify growing and harvesting of tubers, vegetables, and fruits for the benefit of the population. This was reported at the seventh plenum of the national committee of the Agricultural and Livestock Workers Union being held in Pinar del Rio.

A study conducted recently showed that 82 percent of the laborers of the sector fulfill their 8 hour work day, but there are still serious deficiencies which go against their objective such as negligence and little attention to man. Luis Simeon, secretary general of the workers union, noted that endless debates demanding appropriate sanctions should be replaced by reports of the violations of quotas.

Regarding the instability of cadres and structural problems, Rene Penalver, second secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, said that the workers union's objective is, above all, to respond to the needs of workers.

Cooperative Begins Restructuring Process

FL0809185588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The first assembly to elect the board of directors and the community based organization in a cooperative has taken place in the 17 May CPA [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative] of Quivican municipality in the Province of Havana. The objective of these meetings is to restructure the CPA boards of directors and to relieve members of other responsibilities so that, under the direction of the president, they may devote themselves to administrative and productive tasks. Another purpose is to create the directorate of community based organizations of the CPA, which will be in charge of social and political-ideological activities. The conference was

chaired by directors of the PCC, ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], and other organs. ANAP President Orlando Lugo Fonte noted what a privilege it was for the 17 May CPA to be the host of this first assembly.

Hart-Led Delegation Concludes Visit to DPRK

FL1309212688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and culture minister, today departed from Pyongyang at the head of the official Cuban delegation that participated in the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

The Cuban delegation was seen off at the Pyongyang airport by Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Korean Workers Party.

During their stay in Pyongyang, the Cuban delegation visited different areas of historical and social interest.

Armando Hart was also received by Korean leader Kim Il-Song. During their meeting, the two leaders examined matters related to the development of bilateral relations. They also ratified the strong bonds of brotherhood and solidarity that unite Cuba and the DPRK.

Transportation Minister Arrives in Lithuania

FL0709155688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1435 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Diocles Torralba Gonzalez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of transportation, arrived today in the Lithuanian SSR in response to an invitation from the local government.

Torralba will meet during the next 2 days with the heads of the local shipping company to further the cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation.

Honduran Legislators Arrive in Havana

FL0909021388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2327 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] A delegation of Honduran legislators arrived in our country this afternoon responding to an invitation made by the National Assembly of the People's Government. Mr Jose Fernandez Guzman, vice president of the Honduran National Congress, is heading the mission which visited Nicaragua and will remain here until 13 September.

Our journalist Gisela Bel Heredia went to the Jose Marti International Airport, where the Honduran parliament members were welcomed. Mr Fernandez Guzman expressed to the press views on his country's position on Nicaraguan contra bases in Honduras and on relations with Cuba. Let's listen to a portion of this interview.

[Begin Fernandez recording, in progress] ...several visits to socialist and European countries. We are trying to establish the basis for possible relations with the Eastern bloc and, why not say it, with Cuba.

We spent 4 days in Nicaragua meeting with various government officials and representatives of opposition parties. We discussed extensively the peace issue in Central America. We believe we can be an effective vehicle. We talked about these topics with the Nicaraguan Government. Ultimately, the Honduran Government has not admitted that the contras have bases in the country. We believe and are aware—especially the majority of the [words indistinct] Congress—that no irregular forces of any nation should remain in our country. [end recording]

Meet With Aguirre del Cristo

FL1009021588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Jose Fernandez Guzman, vice president of the Honduras National Congress, and the delegation accompanying him are visiting our country at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

The Honduran legislator met today with Severo Aguirre del Cristo, member of the PCC Central Committee and acting president of the ANPP. Aguirre del Cristo expressed to his guests his pleasure for meeting with them, which he had hoped to do for a long time. Fernandez Guzman said the delegation he heads traveled to Cuba with the sincere purpose of establishing links with the Cuban Government and people. We have arrived in this garden of the Caribbean where the reality surpasses every expectation, he said.

Severo Aguirre briefed the legislators on the institutionalization process which has taken place in our country since 1976 and the functioning of local organs of the People's Government and the National Assembly, top organ of the state government. The Honduran delegation will be visiting us until 13 September.

Antigua and Barbuda

New Minister Added To Public Utilities Ministry

FL0709163088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1241 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] St. John's, Sept 6, CANA [dateline as received]—Antigua-Barbuda Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr has announced the appointment of an additional minister to the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, with immediate effect.

Minister Without Portfolio Henderson Simon, who has substantive duties at the Port Authority, has been given responsibility to assist with the technical administration of the state-run Antigua Public Utilities Authority

(APUA), which is responsible for electricity and water utilities here. The appointment comes as the APUA is under attack for a series of blackouts and other power problems here which have in turn hampered water supplies.

The other ministers in the ministry are Senior Minister Robin Yearwood and Junior Minister Eustace Cochrane.

Haiti

Second Church Burned Down; Journalists Attacked

FL1309155088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Last night, a group of armed individuals set fire to St Anne Church in Cite Soleil. St Anne is Father Volel's church. So, in Cite Soleil, St Anne church, where Father Volel is in charge, has been burned to the ground.

Also—and we have had diverse testimony on this—there is a warning addressed to journalists, because there is a group of individuals attacking journalists in the Cite Soleil area. Thus, this is addressed to journalists: Be careful of that group of armed individuals who are attacking journalists in the Cite Soleil area.

We must explain, regarding this aggression, that it is going on in Cite Soleil but that it is not being done by people from Cite Soleil. It is being done by that group of individuals who went and carried out this operation in Cite Soleil. It is that same group of individuals—not the people of Cite Soleil—who are attacking journalists.

Group Threatens Father Aristide on Government TV

FL1309160688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The government television station yesterday ran a film clip of a group of individuals making a series of threatening statements against Father Aristide, whom they accused of wanting to take the food out of their mouths. These people also echoed an idea that was already in circulation yesterday morning, to the effect that what happened Sunday was a matter between clergymen.

Through their presence on television and the statements they made, this group of people seemed to be acknowledging that it was they who perpetrated Sunday morning's incident.

Also, many people are saying it looks as if what happened Sunday cannot just be seen as being limited to St Jean Bosco Church, or even to a matter between priests, to a matter of Father Aristide, because on that same Sunday, there were attacks on people heading for church in different parts of town. The clothes of citizens wearing white were ripped; there were also attacks on political parties and radios, which were stoned. For example, the headquarters of the PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party] and PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], as well as other radio stations, were subjected to volleys of gunfire and rocks on that same Sunday, 11 September.

Further on Statements

FL1309215188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A group of individuals attacked churchgoers at St Jean Bosco Church, mostly with knives, but there was also gunfire. [passage omitted] Yesterday, in disclosures to the press, certain alleged perpetrators of the massacre warned that they will do it again if Father Aristide again says mass in a parish. This morning, we learned that criminal hands last night set fire to still another chapel, Immaculate Conception in Cite Soleil, where Father Volel says mass. Here is Marcus' report.

Last night at around 2300, a fire completely destroyed St Anne's Church in Cite Soleil. The possibility of arson cannot be discarded, for a can of gasoline was found on the premises. [passage omitted] This fire, which left no victims, is the second in less than 48 hours at a church. Once again, the absence of firemen was most noticeable. [passage omitted] The perpetrators of this genocide [Sunday's attack on St Jean Bosco Church] admitted they did it. And not on the telephone—this constitutes a first—but openly and visibly to the independent press and, furthermore, over government television:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Who perpetrated the St Jean Bosco massacre?

[First unidentified speaker] Ah, that was perpetrated by the Haitian people.

[Reporter] The Haitian people?

[First speaker] Yes. The Haitian people did it.

[Second unidentified speaker] [Passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Did you participate in it?

[Second speaker] Yes, I was one of them.

[Third unidentified speaker] I was the head of the group.

[Reporter] Huh?

[Third speaker] I headed the group.

[Reporter] Why did you do it?

[Third speaker] Father Aristide put a team of commandos into the Cite.

[Reporter] Were you attacking Father Aristide directly, or others?

[Third speaker] (?No,) it is Father Aristide we need to get.

[Second speaker] It is that [words indistinct], what they saw yesterday is child's play. They ain't seen nothing yet!

[Reporter] How can you get involved in such acts when you know there are military posts in that area?

[Second speaker] No, military business is the business of the military. We....

[Reporter, interrupting] But how can you do this kind of thing when you know they don't want people to demonstrate or to create disorder? Do you think you can act with impunity? Won't they do anything to you for this? Are you protected?

[Second speaker] [Words indistinct] that we were laying our life on the line. It is no one's business but ours if the police catch us, tie us up, and beat us. The only thing we are interested in is getting Aristide. Whatever parish agrees to let Father Aristide say a mass there will have him saying mass to a bunch of corpses. Friend, we had good weapons, but they were not firearms. We had good knives. We could cut out entrails, decapitate....

[Reporter, interrupting] How many people did you wound in all?

[Second speaker] We wounded a lot of people, a lot. [voice in background says: "A woman got her guts cut out"] [end recording]

PDCH's Sylvio Claude Reacts to 11 Sep Events

FL1309172988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] We have spoken with Pastor Sylvio Claude, president of the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], who gave his opinion on what happened yesterday.

Concerning the campaign in support of the Constitution, the PDCH leader thinks the government is applying pressure to prevent people from showing what they want. As regards the attack on PDCH headquarters, Sylvio Claude feels this is a maneuver, one more threat, but says they will never succeed in making him keep his mouth shut.

[Begin recording] [Claude] Even if we would have said the campaign was 60 percent successful, now we are saying that it was 100 percent successful, because it was you who pressured the people, and that is why not everyone wore white. [passage omitted] The minute you have to pressure someone to keep him from expressing his will, this means it is you who are unpopular.

I have heard them say, for example, when there is a strike in Port-au-Prince, that the reason people don't open their businesses is because they are afraid to, because the sector calling for the strike has pressured them. Now, if this is valid when it is to your advantage, you must acknowledge that it is valid when it is to others' advantage, too. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Do you think this was a government initiative?)

[Claude] Hey, hold on. But of course. This is clear. There is no guesswork involved here. It was at the government's initiative. Just listen: The general went to city hall and he made threats, and he said that tomorrow he would put everyone in red. Everyone heard that. These were instructions he was giving the perpetrators to organize. So, it is clear, obvious, to everyone that it was a government initiative.

First of all, if the military were out in the streets ripping white clothes off people, who sent them if not the government? There were armed civilians [words indistinct] ripping white garments off people. And listen, it's no secret to anyone. Everyone knows that all the people who went to St Jean Bosco were people who work at city hall. Now, Frank Romain, instead of saying no, they were not people from city hall, accepted it. He said that yes, it was they. [passage omitted] He said he couldn't stop someone who worked at city hall from being against Father Aristide. So it's clear. It is clear that this is a well-orchestrated, well-calculated thing, so that people's eyes will not be opened. Furthermore, it is a miscalculation. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Pastor Claude, do you think yesterday afternoon's attack on the political parties is a kind of warning to the opposition?

[Claude] It is not a warning; it is a tactic. It is part of the global strategy they are using—like the Papaye thing, and other places; like trashing my headquarters—to put the opposition in its place. That is, to do away with the opposition once and for all. But, as I have already said once in an interview, democracy is hard-headed—and all the European political scientists and certain American political scientists agree that democracy is hard-headed—this means that once democracy has (?gotten a foothold) in a country, you can do whatever you want, but you will be unable to kill it. [passage omitted] Thus I think this was a miscalculation. [passage omitted] I have seized my freedom of expression once and for all. No one can take it from me now! [passage omitted]

Regardless of what he does, he will never be able to take away freedom of expression now. Once we have that, even if they trash radio stations—throw rocks at Radio Soleil, trash Radio Cacique, and so forth—they are wasting their time. As far as speaking out goes, we are never going to stop. [end recording]

Launches Appeal, Seeks Meeting

FL1309220788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Pastor Sylvio Claude, the leader of the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], is appealing to the international community.

[Begin recording] [Claude] The international community must say something because when a government commits a genocide on an unarmed people, it is the international community that must come and stop it. This is clear. They have reached the limit.

Here are people praying in a church! Regardless of what pretext you might have, there they are, praying in a church—and you come in and shoot them, beat them, kill them, and burn the church down. That is just too much, going too far.

I simply cannot see what kind of pretext the United States, or Canada, or France, or Germany could possibly swallow as an explanation for what was done. The only solution is for an international committee to say something. The ball is in their court, because how can an unarmed man fight an armed man? He can't! That is obvious.

First of all, any intervention, regardless of how it is done, is an indignity to a nation, but no one can be expected to accomplish the impossible.

[Reporter] Reverend Claude, to what sector do you attribute the acts perpetrated yesterday, particularly those against your headquarters, against the PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], and against St Jean Bosco?

[Claude] Hey listen, it is not me who attributed them. The author of the acts has uncovered himself. He admitted it. There was a rumor to the effect that it was Franck Romain who organized it. Among the people who were there at St Jean Bosco, they said they identified people who were Romain's as the ones involved in the acts. But after Romain's statement over Radio Metropole—he admitted it. So if he admitted it, it is not up to me to say that it wasn't! He said that Father Aristide had paid for what he had done. Thus, he said it was he. [end recording]

Reverend Claude made other statements following the appearance on television of the alleged perpetrators of the St Jean Bosco massacre and the fire at St Anne Church in Cite Soleil. Sylvio Claude called on the democratic sector to hold an emergency meeting with a view to concerted action.

[Begin Claude recording] After what happened at St Jean Bosco yesterday, and after all the accounts from witnesses and everything else we have heard, it is clear it was something the government organized. There was a vaccination center inside St Jean Bosco, and most of the people who were killed were people who had gone there to be vaccinated. Then two individuals appeared on television last night and said it was they who did it, and they made threats. They said that they would do the same thing to any parish that accepted Father Aristide.

Now, it was announced last night that Father Aristide might be sent to Cite Soleil, to St Anne Church. And indeed, last night they went there and burned it down.

In view of this situation, it is both urgent and timely for an appeal to be launched, and I am hereby launching this appeal—to all this country's democrats, to all the popular organizations, to all the churches, and to all religions—for an emergency meeting, today or at the latest tomorrow, to decide what position we will take. Things simply cannot go on like this.

All this country's democrats, all churches, all religions, all political organizations, all political leaders—this is urgent. This is an appeal. We must meet today or tomorrow in order to determine what decision we will make. I am waiting for them to announce to me at what time, at what place, everyone—without any exceptions whatsoever—is going to meet. All the country's forces, the civilian society—we are waiting for them to meet.

So this is the call I am making, because this cannot continue. It is simply not possible. A group of people cannot kill off an entire nation and directly attack the church. Thank you. [end recording]

That, then, was the appeal by Reverend Sylvio Claude following the appearance yesterday evening over television of the perpetrators of the Sunday, 11 September, massacre at St Jean Bosco Church.

Unity Group on 'Massacre'

FL1309175788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The Confederation for Democratic Unity, KID, is (?sick) over the corpses and bloodshed during yesterday's criminal massacre at St Jean Bosco Church.

KID asks the Haitian people not to pay any attention to any false explanation the government is going to try to come up with following the St Jean Bosco massacre, just like after Labadie, where they tried to escape blame by blaming the victims. According to information KID has, most of the dead people they were able to identify among the criminals [as heard] are poor criminals for hire from among the masses, who have allowed bigshots and high-ranking authorities to send them to massacre patriots who are on the Haitian people's side.

KID is asking these people serving as spies and executioners, these people who are murdering people struggling for change in Haiti, whether they have forgotten 7 February, when all the bigshot authorities managed to flee, whereas they themselves were left defenseless in the streets. KID

believes that if macoute power is still crushing the people today, it is because there has not yet been a real 7 February, where all the criminals are supposed to be judged for all the acts they are committing.

As regards the people's camp, KID is of the opinion that after the murder of Lafontant Joseph and the events in Les Cayes, Petit Goave, the central plateau, Labadie, and St Jean Bosco, it is time for the Haitian people to stop counting their dead. All individuals and organizations that are on the side of the people should get together and take all measures necessary to prevent the macoutes from continuing to drink the people's blood for free.

Literacy Drive in Artibonite Valley Reported
FL1009151188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 8 September, the Agency for the Development of the Artibonite Valley [ODVA], the National Pedagogical Institute [IPN], and the Ministry of Education together set up a program to open centers in the Artibonite Valley to help those in the area who cannot read and write.

The ODVA itself has decided to teach all its employees to read and write. Thus, it inaugurated a course at the ODVA auditorium in the Artibonite Valley yesterday to teach everyone to read and write. Saint-Marc Magistrate (Jules Rochnel), development adviser Pierre Hugues Brun, and Lieutenant Henri Nicolas—who is the commander of the subdistrict of Saint-Marc—were present at the ceremony held on the occasion of the inauguration of this course. IPN representative Mr (Simpson Gabeau), who is in charge of evaluation at the IPN, was also present. All these people attended ceremonies yesterday at Pont Sonde on the occasion of national literacy day. [passage omitted]

ODVA's illiterate employees have 3 months—until December—in which to learn to read and write. If, after this course, these people are still unable to read and write, they will have to stop working for ODVA, because the ODVA has decided that all its employees must be able to sign their names. We will have you listen to our interview with the administrator, Jean Laventure.

[Begin recording] [Laventure] [Passage omitted] We have decided that in 3 months they must all be able to sign their names. The course will continue until they can read any text that ODVA might put out. As of January, all ODVA communiques, all circulars, will be printed in two languages: French and Creole. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How many illiterate employees does ODVA have?

[Laventure] [Passage omitted] Approximately 80. [passage omitted] We have issued a communique to the effect that any employee who cannot sign his name within 3 months of the beginning of this course will be considered as having resigned. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jamaica

6 Killed in Hurricane; Damage Assessment Begins
FL1309220488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2956 GMT 13 Sep 88

[By Paget de Freitas, Kingston correspondent]

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 13, CANA—At least six deaths were reported Tuesday, as Jamaicans, still being stung by strong winds and rain, began to assess the full impact of Hurricane Gilbert that ravaged the island Monday.

Radio Jamaica (RJR) said that three children were reported to have been washed away by flood waters at Bull Bay, east of Kingston, while a man apparently bled to death after being slashed by glass sent flying by the winds of Gilbert which reached over 100 miles an hour. Another man died when a tree crashed into his home and a baby died similarly when the force of a falling tree knocked it from its father's hands.

But the reported casualities belie the level of devastation from the hurricane that Prime Minister Edward Seaga reckoned left "the worst disaster in the modern history of Jamaica."

A major earthquake in 1970 and the fires that destroyed Kingston in its wake left hundreds dead and Hurricane Charlie of 1951 killed more than 150. But officials expect that in terms of economic impact, Gilbert will have been more devastating with its severe damage to business, commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture.

"This has been a major disaster," said John McFarlane, the director of the Office of Disaster Prepareness (ODP), the agency that coordinates disaster prevention, preparation, and relief.

The evidence of Gilbert's fury was becoming clearer Tuesday. Few buildings were apparently left unaffected by its winds. [passage omitted]

There were no external telephone services and only telex provided a link with the outside world.

At the Jamintel centre many offices on the second floor were wrecked after the hurricane smashed windows while winds upturned furniture and files.

The international telephone switching system had to be shut down. The problem was compounded by the fact that the satellite communication radar dish in the east of the island, which carries 85 per cent of the island communications circuits, had to be stored.

By mid-morning Tuesday, the government was attempting to bring working order back to the capital. There were radio calls for key officials to turn up to the office of the prime minister for a planning meeting, and light and power company contractors were told to turn up at their stations to begin clearing work. Appeals were also being made to looters who were breaking into stores and supermarkets.

But the continuing rains hampered the clean-up work and most streets remained littered with zinc and galvanized sheets, electricity and telephone wires, and fallen trees.

Marxist Workers' Party Begins Fourth Congress

FL0909220388 Bridgetown CANA in English
2137 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 9, CANA—The Marxist Workers' Party of Jamaica (WPJ) was on Friday beginning its fourth and most critical congress, having to resolve issues of ideology and its relevance in a Jamaica of the 1990's.

"The time has come now to make ourselves more Jamaican," General Secretary Trevor Munroe told reporters on the eve of the opening of the four-day congress.

"We have to recognize that we need to draw much more on the tradition of the Jamaican people," added Munroe, who presides over a party, apparently so split that six Central Committee members resigned in the past month, disavowing the Marxist line of the WPJ.

Formally launched in 1977, the WPJ has already displayed the best longevity for third parties here. But it has been in a state of trauma with the decline of the Caribbean left particularly since the destruction of the Grenada revolution in 1983 when Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was murdered, leading to the United States invasion of the island.

For the pasty two years, the WPJ, which was closely linked to the hardline faction of Bishop's New Jewel Movement, has been debating the form the party should take in the future. Apparently, some members wanted the WPJ to evolve into a broad-based leftwing party accomodating all "progressive" ideologies.

Analysts say that the other view, apparently led by Munroe, was that while the party should change, becoming more open and responsive to Caribbean situations, it should retain its underlying Marxist-Leninist ideology.

In a surprise move last month founding WPJ member, Don Robotham, who also sat on the Central Committee, resigned saying that its ideology was "narrow and dictatorial."

"I have come to the conclusion that the party as presently constituted does not allow for the broad and diverse interests of our people to flourish in it," he said in a resignation letter that he made public. Robotham said that while "some cosmetic changes" would be made under Munroe's leadership, there was "a firm determination to cling to the substance of Marxism-Leninism."

Munroe's response was to urge members to come to the congress for frank discussions. However, the resignation of five other Central Committee and Political Bureau members followed shortly afterwards. They too felt that even after the congress the WPJ would remain Marxist-Leninist and declared: "such a party is itself an obstacle to fundamental democratic change in Jamaica." Said the group that included some of the WPJ's best known figures: "We blinded ourselves to the dangers and defects of the Marxist-Leninist type of party and way of thinking even after the events of Grenada."

The debate at the congress will centre on these arguments, but analysts say that with the strongest backers for a radical transformation from Marxism gone it was almost a foregone conclusion that the WPJ will maintain its basic ideology with some reform.

"We have to recognize that any new Jamaica which is going to be your home...has to be built on what is positive in the present Jamaica," Munroe said Thursday. Added Munroe: "...the Workers' Party needs to change, to root itself more in our soil at the same time as it draws inspiration from parties and from movements and revolutionary experiences in other countries."

El Salvador

Policeman Killed, 300 Arrested in Demonstration

PA1309213588 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Report by Milton Grimaldo]

[Excerpts] One policeman was killed and two more were injured, while at least 300 students and workers were arrested today at noon during a demonstration organized by the University of El Salvador. The students and workers clashed with riot police near the Finance Ministry.

Those arrested were taken away in several buses. The wounded were picked up by Red Cross ambulances. [passage omitted]

We have just learned that a journalist, our colleague Boris Eduardo Zelaya, who works for Radio Cadena Libertad, has been arrested by the national police.

Rebels Attack Brigade; Suffer 50 Casualties

PA1309142988 Paris AFP in Spanish 1311 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Sep (AFP)—Official sources have reported that at dawn today the FMLN attacked the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango Department, in the northern part of El Salvador. The sources issued a preliminary report of one soldier killed and four wounded.

The Armed Forces public relations office assured, meanwhile, that during the past few hours the Army inflicted 50 casualties on the rebels during strong clashes in Perquin, in the eastern Morazan Department.

FMLN Commander Killed

PA1309172288 Paris AFP in Spanish 1420 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 13 Sep (AFP)—[Passage omitted] The Perquin clash, the Armed Forces report says, began at Cerro El Gigante at 1500 on Monday and ended at 0300 on Tuesday with the death of guerrilla commander "Nasser," when specialized "Monterrosa" command units from the 4th Detachment in San Francisco Gotera, provincial capital of Morazan, launched a surprise attack on his group.

Meanwhile, the rebel Radio Venceremos, the FMLN's official station, did not carry a report on the situation in El Paraiso or Perquin during its first newscast this morning.

Military sources reported, however, that the rebels' attack on El Paraiso started with mortar fire at 0100 (0700 GMT) Tuesday and that the fighting lasted 4 hours.

The sources told AFP that the attack damaged one of the troops' sleeping quarters. This was confirmed by an El Paraiso fire department source, who said that a fire, which damaged "a section" of the military barracks after the FMLN raid, had been put out.

According to the military source, the rebel attack was repelled with artillery fire. A pursuit operation was mounted and executed jointly with Military Detachment No 1 stationed at Chalatenango and Air Force planes, which bombed rebel positions.

The 4th Infantry Brigade stationed at El Paraiso today received the third large-scale attack by rebels in 8 years of war. The first occurred on 30 December 1983 and the second on 31 March last year. The total number of Army casualties was 250, including dead and wounded.

In addition, the FMLN attacked the National Guard garrison in Tejutepeque, Cabanas, on 1 September, killing 13 and wounding 14 of the government troops.

Blandon Comments

PA1309220788 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Statement by General Adolfo Blandon, Armed Forces chief of staff, at the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters in Paraiso, Chalatenango Department, on 13 September—recorded]

[Text] The thwarted attack by subversives on the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters began at approximately 0100 with mortar fire. Approximately 150 or 200 terrorists carried out the attack, using mortars and grenade launchers.

The attack caused slight damage to some buildings. Regretfully, we had some casualties. Two officers and seven soldiers died. We found the bodies of five terrorists in the surrounding area.

I must state that the 4th Brigade troops reacted in a positive, professional manner. Thanks to the brigade's perimeter security procedures, the attack was virtually insignificant. I view this as a frustrated attack. The soldiers in the barracks responded heroically, and this was the main reason the attack was not more serious.

We must also mention the speed and efficiency with which the Salvadoran Air Force and the units of Chalatenango's Military Detachment No 1 backed the troops who were attacked.

I must also say that the terrorists have been hit badly during the 45 days of the "Paraiso Heroes Operation." During this period we have inflicted more than 130 casualties. Yesterday, in Las Bolsas, a 4th Infantry Brigade patrol and a terrorist patrol clashed, and the terrorists suffered three casualties. We also captured a female terrorist in that clash.

There was another important incident. There was a clash in El Gigante Hill, near Perquin. The clash began at approximately 1600. I have received unconfirmed reports that so far six Military Detachment No 4 soldiers were wounded. According to intercepted terrorist communications, the terrorists have suffered 50 casualties in this fighting.

With the attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade, the terrorists tried to discredit the "Paraiso Heroes Operation" and to block the strategic plans the Armed Forces and the government outlined in the Chalatenango-88 program.

FMLN on Attack

PA1409015388 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0042 GMT 14 Sep 88

[FMLN War Bulletin No 1, issued in El Salvador on 13 September]

[Text] 1. Today, 13 September, FMLN forces for the third time annihilated the 4th Infantry Brigade's troops and base in El Paraiso. The attack began at 0100 with an overwhelming and devastating attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade's barracks. The command post, the armory, and the garrison's inner and outer perimeter positions were simultaneously attacked. Our forces wiped out all the perimeter positions and then seized control of and burned the barracks. Our forces also destroyed the command post and the armory. The Army's forces in El Periquinal Hill and El Guayabo Hill were simultaneously attacked, and the soldiers were driven from their positions.

Preliminary reports indicate that hundreds of soldiers and officers were killed and that troops of the Atlacatl Battalion housed in the barracks were also annihilated. The enemy could not react. The only thing the enemy did was to send a C-47 airplane, an O-2 airplane, and a helicopter gunship to the scene.

We fulfilled all of the operation's goals.

2. Likewise, today we carried out a regional operation in the eastern sector, including Morazan and San Miguel Department. The operation includes the following actions:

a. An attack on the 4th Military Detachment's commando company's positions on El Gigante Hill. The clash lasted 10 hours, and preliminary reports indicate that the enemy sustained 12 casualties.

b. A raid on Cacaopera and takeover of the town. The enemy abandoned its positions and fled from our forces, which distributed propaganda and put up posters throughout the town.

c. An attack on enemy positions in the town of Guatajiaqua, the takeover of the town, and sabotage actions. The clash lasted 2 hours, and the enemy fled in disarray.

d. A raid on the town of Sociedad, where booby traps were set.

e. A raid on the towns of San Antonio del Mosco and San Isidro.

f. The setting up of roadblocks between Corinto and Sociedad and between Chapeltique and Guatajiagua.

g. A raid on the town of Joateca and distribution of propaganda.

h. An attack on and harassment of Cuscatlan Battalion troops at the Ciudad Barrios cemetery with grenades and rifle fire. The attack was carried out by local guerrilla groups, and we have no reports on casualties.

i. The takeover of San Luis de la Reina by our clandestine militias, which lectured the people and distributed propaganda.

We are waiting for confirmation of results from the clashes in Jocoro, the takeover of Carolina, and sabotage actions in Santa Rosa de Lima and San Miguel.

Long live our strategic operation to attack and annihilate the barracks in El Paraiso! Long live our regional operation! Long live the campaign called Death to Reagan's Policy, Yankees Get Out of El Salvador! We live to fight! We fight to win!

El Salvador, 13 September 1988

FMLN's Roberto Roca on Elections, Struggle

PA1009221488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Report on interview with Commander Roberto Roca, member of the FMLN General Command—date and place not given]

[Text] Regarding the FMLN General Command's view of the elections as an expression of democracy, Commander Roca said the following:

[Begin Roca recording] The elections are not synonymous with democracy. However, in a truly democratic regime, authentically popular elections should exist. In such elections, all the people, the great majority of the people can freely express their political opinions. Through the political struggle, each social sector and political organization can achieve its aspirations. This means that democracy cannot be reduced to just elections. Authentic democracy means that there must be economic democracy.

In other words, the people must be able to have access to wealth; they must have the right to work; they must have the right to a decent life through their hard efforts, through state-guaranteed education, and so forth. There must also be social democracy, which means that the

state must guarantee education and health services and the right to organize, and so forth. Without all of this, democracy at the political party level just becomes a farce, a lie.

What exists in El Salvador is an authentic military dictatorship that seeks to hide behind propaganda about a political democracy. A country with a 70-percent unemployment and underemployment rate does not have economic democracy. One cannot speak of economic democracy in a country where a privileged minority has always amassed a fortune on the backs of the people's labor. One cannot speak of social democracy in a country where repression is a daily occurrence and where health is the privilege of a few who have the money to pay doctors and to buy the increasingly more expensive medicines.

Therefore, one cannot speak of the existence of the foundations for an authentic democracy in this country. On the contrary, what has traditionally existed in El Salvador is the imposition of a political, economic, and social system that runs counter to the interests and the will of the majority. This continues to be true more than ever today, because it has been shown that the regime is a puppet regime that is artificially propped up by the foreign policy of the Reagan administration, which spends $2 million a day to sustain this disinterred corpse. The people are clearly waging a struggle by every means possible against such an infamous regime, which is unquestionably suffering a crisis that will rapidly lead to a final collapse.

Therefore, in El Salvador we are close to achieving a popular victory and with it the chance to establish an authentically democratic government in which an electoral process could exist that would truly represent the will of the nation's majority. As long as this does not occur, the so-called democracy about which the current regime talks is nothing more than a means to deceive the masses and to conceal the essence of the regime; in other words, a modern-age military dictatorship sponsored, financed, and artificially propped up by the Reagan administration. [end recording]

Taking into account the participation of the Democratic Merger and particularly the FDR's political forces in the elections, one of the most discussed topics is the political-military activities of the FMLN. When we asked Comrade Commander Roberto Roca to explain how the FMLN would act at the military level during the elections and whether there would be a boycott, he replied as follows:

[Begin Roca recording] Well, the FMLN's military actions in recent years, particularly this year, have been increasing, and their effectiveness is the factor that obviously has led to a deep crisis at the political level within the regime and its Armed Forces. It is a crisis characterized by divided parties. It is a crisis that has revived the struggle for power among the parties that represent big capital and the counterinsurgency plan.

This in turn has caused a crisis in growth, in operations, and in the command structure of the government's Armed Forces. That crisis will continue to increase, and obviously such a crisis benefits the enemy's plans in the political-electoral field. As in past electoral processes, the so-called elections will be nothing more than a new military operation. We will have to fight the Armed Forces' military operation which, in this case, will be in the guise of presidential elections.

This will undoubtedly lead to an increasingly more open and broader confrontation in all areas of the nation's territory—in the cities, rural and suburban areas, and so on. It will lead to military clashes. Will we call this an electoral boycott? We think this is what the regime would like us to call it. We say that the combat against the military operations carried out by the enemy within the framework of the electoral processes will in fact become a boycott of the elections.

Why is this so? Because the elections have been imposed on the people. The elections are not the result of the people's consensus. They are not the expression of the political will of the majority. As I said when I answered your previous question, the elections are one means used by the regime to cover up the fact that it is a military dictatorship. We have to expose the truth, and this necessarily leads to greater and greater confrontation between the people and the dictatorship at the political and military levels.

We can proudly say that all of this shows that the upcoming elections will be a lackluster political event. If the March 1988 elections showed the regime's inability to convince the majority of the people to participate in that farce, in the next elections the regime will face the intensified efforts of the people to defeat the dictatorship. This means that there will be a confrontation between the dictatorship's useless efforts to hold the elections and the struggle of the Salvadoran people to oust that dictatorship and to open the possibility of establishing an authentically popular regime in the country.

Nevertheless, we must note something here. We have said repeatedly and whenever and wherever we can that we are open, that we are fully willing to find a political solution through negotiations. We base this on the fact that we are responding to the popular consensus that clamors for a way to find peace in the country and a way to get the country out of its crisis. The crisis springs from the authentic cause of the popular struggle in El Salvador, from the armed conflict that is not new but that has lasted for almost a decade. Today we reiterate that willingness.

Furthermore, with regard to the dialogue or debate organized by the church, we state our willingness to find a political solution to the conflict. We think that our 6-point offer and our 18-point proposal to de-escalate the war provide a solid basis or foundation from which to carry out a negotiating process. Nevertheless, we have found that the regime has obstinately rejected all these initiatives we have presented. In view of this, we also reiterate our consistent revolutionary decision to continue with weapons in hand until victory is achieved. Victory is closer every day. Tens of thousands of Salvadorans are joining the struggle to achieve this victory.

Therefore, the events that will take place within the context of the electoral process will be very important military and political events. We believe that they can open the way for a new political situation that would make possible the search for a negotiated solution. We believe that in light of the regime's stubbornness, without an effective change in the balance of political and military forces, the regime will continue to oppose the people's interests and will continue being stubborn, and, therefore, combat will increase. In fact, this will turn into a form of confrontation, with the FMLN and the people's forces pitted against the military and political objectives of the military dictatorship in El Salvador. [end recording]

Guatemala

Officers: Coup Try Possible If No Changes Made

PA1309143888 Paris AFP in Spanish 1249 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Sep (AFP)—The abortive military coup of 11 May in Guatemala generated a number of "fissures" in the ranks of the Army that, if not soon corrected, "could result in a new movement" against President Vinicio Cerezo's administration, officers implicated in the rebellion said here today.

The officers, who asked not to be identified for "security reasons," told AFP that on that occasion, they had sought to "terminate a number of erroneous actions and basically prevent Guatemala from falling into the hands of communism, which the present authorities are allowing it to do."

The sources said that the abortive coup, which initially led to sanctions against 13 officers, 6 of them colonels, "was a serious movement" that opened "fissures in the Army that could lead to a similar movement if they are not remedied."

The sources accused Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo of "being at the service of the Christian Democratic Party (which brought Cerezo to power in January 1986), instead of protecting the interests of the Armed Forces."

"Gramajo serves the ruling party and President Cerezo. We are not here to defend a single party, but all the people," one of the officers said.

The most conservative sectors of the Guatemalan Army believe that the ruling party's policy "tends to weaken the counterinsurgency program," which had been declared successful in the past few years.

The participants in the May coup expressed regret that the military leadership had supported "several measures of rapprochement with the guerrillas," and warned: "We are not going to allow that."

"While soldiers are dying in the mountains, we cannot possibly be talking with the guerrillas and allowing them to come into the country," the officers said. They were referring to the single round of talks held between government representatives and the rebel groups in Madrid last year and the return of several exiles.

They also reacted harshly to talks held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in August between members of the National Reconciliation Commission and the General Command of the URNG, a coalition of the leftist guerrillas who operate in Guatemala.

On the other hand, the officers denied that the guerrillas in their country have been "wiped out," as government and Army spokesmen maintain. The officers said that, on the contrary, the guerrillas "have been gaining ground."

"I hate to admit it, but the guerrillas have caused us many casualties; perhaps not deaths, but seriously wounded soldiers," one of the officers said.

The officer said that explosives placed in the jungle by the rebels are very difficult to detect and cause serious injuries to soldiers who step on them.

In addition, he said, the URNG columns inflicted "many casualties" on Army troops in a clash in late August in the western Chimaltenango Department.

On that occasion, the guerrillas claimed that they had put 76 soldiers out of action, but this was denied by the Armed Forces.

The officers also expressed irritation at the "abusive dismissal" from the Army's ranks of several of those accused of participating in the May rebellion, "even though a military court had released them for lack of evidence."

URNG's Monsanto on Fighting, Cuba Ties

PA0809170288 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Aug 88 pp 4, 32

["Part I" of report on "exclusive interview" with URNG leader Pablo Monsanto by correspondent Jose Melendez in San Jose, Costa Rica—date not given]

[Text] San Jose, 27 Aug—Commander Pablo Monsanto, one of the top URNG leaders, has said the Guatemalan Army still enters Mexican territory in its failed counterisurgency struggle, which has involved over 1 million civilians.

In an exclusive interview with EXCELSIOR, the URNG commander warned here that the war will worsen in Guatemala because the Army and the government reject a political solution to the war. Monsanto is one of the three URNG General Command members, and he asserted the war will reach areas located 30 km from Guatemala City, where the rebels will attack military units to force a political settlement for a war that has lasted for over 27 years.

In our long conversation, Monsanto, who is married and the father of four children, assessed the Guatemalan guerrillas' relations with Cuba and the socialist bloc; his country's military panorama; the perspectives of Vinicio Cerezo's government; other political, social, economic, and military aspects of the war in Guatemala; the Central American crisis; and the incidents occurring on the Mexican-Guatemalan border.

Monsanto has been a member of one of the oldest Latin American insurgent forces for about 26 years. Monsanto—who has a small grey beard, is simple, and is filled with information concerning the region's situation—asserted: "The Guatemalan Army is constantly violating Mexican territory, because it believes the Guatemalan refugee camps are our bases and guerrilla sanctuaries, but that it not true."

Monsanto added: "Even though we have proven through a number of Mexican and international organizations linked to human rights that those camps are not our bases, the Guatemalan Army still enters Mexican territory, because it believes we have camps there."

Monsanto said the Guatemalan Army has invaded Mexico "through recent heavy attacks, which are results of the arrogance of the Guatemalan military men, who feel they have a right to violate norms of coexistence not only in Guatemala, but abroad. In addition, the Guatemalan Army fears the growth and development of the URNG and believes we are building facilities in Mexican territory. Nothing could be more absurd."

Monsanto adds that in the constant search for rebels, the Army has recruited over 1 million people to join the so-called civilian self-defense groups.

Monsanto stated: "The Guatemalan Army is experiencing one of the most critical situations in its history. In view of the increasing guerrilla activity throughout the country, the entire military and paramilitary counterinsurgency structure, which the Army has built in the last 6 years, is not enough to fight, nor even to halt, the advance of the guerrilla forces.

According to the rebel leader, "the Army deployed its forces throughout the country to establish political and military control over the Guatemalan population and territory. In addition to that military strategy, the Army began using terror to forcibly create the civilian self-defense patrols, which comprise over 1 million people. [quotation mark as published]

Monsanto says: "That strategy, however, failed. In view of that failure, the need for a political, negotiated solution reappears."

Monsanto recalled the incidents of last May, when a group of military men attempted a coup d'etat against Cerezo: Although the attempt was "apparently" unsuccessful, it demonstrated the president's great instability.

[Melendez] What are the possibilities that Cerezo's government will advance toward the problem's solution within the current political and military panorama in Guatemala?

[Monsanto] We want to contribute toward resolving the country's political situation. Our contribution, however, does not mean we will surrender weapons or abandon our combat positions. Why do we say that? Because the existence of our forces, a revolutionary movement that is becoming an organization that could hold power in Guatemala, makes people believe that a true democratic process could also exist.

Monsanto remains silent. He remembers something and says: "At the beginning of Cerezo's administration (January 1986), we told him he had a chance to open truly democratic paths in our country if the government were to enact a series of political measures to change the power structures in Guatemala, because those structures are fully in the hands of the Army. As long as the Army is the main element of power and continues making all the important decisions for the country, Guatemala will not escape its crisis."

Encouraged by the journalist to propose solutions to the problem, Monsanto said: "The Army must return to where it belongs—it must not rule the country; the people should rule the country. That is the solution; if Cerezo is willing to make the necessary decisions to attain that goal, we would be willing to help him."

Monsanto revealed important details about Guatemala's military situation, which is not well known internationally. He emphasized: "All that pretentiousness about 23

military bases, 1 million or more civilian patrol members, and measures to reorganize its commanders so the Army can centralize its resources and military operations has resulted in a failure. The Army organized the whole thing 2 years ago but has yet to achieve a single military victory."

The rebel leader was calm and easy-going even though he has a strong personality. He talked softly and his answers were specific. He joined the guerrilla movement when he was 16 years old. He adamantly denied the Guatemalan guerrillas are a springboard for the interests and mandates of Cuba or Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Monsanto's real name is Jorge Soto Garcia, the son of a worker and a peasant woman. He said he left high school in 1962 to join the revolutionary forces.

He clearly explained a number of issues concerning the URNG's ties with Havana and the socialist bloc countries after being asked about the influence exerted by Castro and about frequent U.S. accusations that the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other countries use the Guatemalan and Salvadoran guerrilla organizations for Marxist-Leninist infiltration in Latin America.

Monsanto sipped some water and said: "We have excellent relations with the Cuban party and government, but we have no political or ideological dependence on Cuba. This does not mean we deny the Cuban revolution's influence throughout Latin America, not only on our organizations but on ourselves. However, it is not political influence that includes their telling us what to do and when to do it; our relations with the Cuban party and government are based on absolute respect."

The conflict in Guatemala—which has resulted in over 100,000 dead and 50,000 missing since 1960, when it began and the guerrilla organizations were founded—will worsen in the next few weeks. Monsanto denied the conflict will worsen as a result of Cuban and socialist aid to the URNG.

The rebel leader emphasized he recently came to San Jose with a URNG delegation, which met this week with the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala in an effort to pave the way for the URNG's participation in the multiparty peace dialogue scheduled for mid-September in Guatemala.

The government and the Army reject the presence of rebels in a dialogue meeting, because they link the rebels with Havana and Moscow and demand they first lay down weapons and join the country's democratic process.

After a few moments of reflection, the guerrilla commander himself wondered, answered, and clarified: Moral and political aid from Cuba? That aid exists. In other words, Cuban comrades help us as much as possible morally and politically. It is not true, however, that we depend economically or politically on them or receive aid from the socialist bloc.

"We have even jokingly said to other people: We wish we were really receiving that aid. If we were receiving only a very little aid from that bloc or only 10 percent of the aid received by the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, we could do 100 times more for Guatemala than what we currently do."

[Melendez] What can you do to maintain the war?

[Monsanto] Let us talk about the weapons problem. If we were receiving Cuban weapons, we would have weapons made in socialist countries in our camps; you can see that in Mexico, for example, there are AK rifles, which have been introduced into the country by drug traffickers. We do not have AK rifles, but we can buy them. We can even buy them in Mexico, in Mexico and other markets. The United States and Canada sell those weapons, as do other countries. If we had the money, we would surely buy those weapons, and therefore people would not say the Cubans or the Sandinists gave them to us. They have always respected the agreements they signed with other countries and we, of course, absolutely agree with those agreements.

Monsanto also said: "Ours is an old movement, and we have several financial sources—obviously, we cannot say where—that allow us to continue the war at its current level."

He pointed his finger at the correspondent and added: "The people wage their revolutions; these cannot be imposed on them or imported. We are able to continue primarily because of the people's support. We also receive aid—I reiterate, not from socialist countries—from a vast amount of forces that even have different ideologies than ours. No foreign government helps us, but we have managed to channel important international aid through organizations that support the Guatemalan people."

He emphatically denied that Guatemalan guerrilla organizations use Mexico as a platform to launch their military operations and "to wage their revolution."

"We have not even considered the idea of using Mexican territory to organize our military forces, because it would be a grave mistake for us to use neighboring territory for war purposes. We could not possibly compromise the Mexican Government and Army in such a situation. We fully respect Mexico's sovereignty and territory."

[Melendez] Do you believe the Guatemalan military raids into Mexico that you report are a provocation for that country?

[Monsanto] I would not exactly say that. The Guatemalan Army's raids into Mexico are aimed at exerting pressure on the Mexican Government and Army to establish iron-clad control along their joint border. However, the border area is extensive and is mostly jungle, so they cannot possibly enforce strict control.

Monsanto continued with his brief description of what, according to him, occurs in the border area. He said: "It is useless to deploy a large number of forces to establish effective control of that border, because we (the guerrilla forces) do not use the territory at all. We do everything inside Guatemala; our forces operate deep in Guatemalan territory, not along the border."

"The guerrilla groups will increase their actions in those regions, deep in Guatemalan territory, to exert pressure for a political solution. New combat fronts will be opened and one of them, I insist, will be located a few kilometers from Guatemala City."

On URNG Unity

PA0809223488 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Aug 88 pp 2, 39

["Second and final part" of report on "exclusive interview" with URNG leader Pablo Monsanto by correspondent Jose Melendez in San Jose, Costa Rica—date not given]

[Text] San Jose, 28 Aug—URNG leader Pablo Monsanto asserted that the Guatemalan Army is "desperately" seeking massive U.S. financial aid to modernize itself and counter the guerrilla organizations. He added that he advocates a political solution to the war in his country, where the people have paid "a high price in human lives" during the 27-year conflict.

The guerrilla commander announced in the final part of an exclusive interview with EXCELSIOR: "We believe that if a political solution to the war is not reached this year, the guerrilla forces will double; if we had 3,000 armed men in 1987, this year the force may increase to 6,000. We might have a virtual army operating in over half the national territory."

Monsanto stated that "a military victory is not ruled out, but we know the solution would require an extremely high social cost. The military forces, not us, began the war in Guatemala; they imposed a system that goes against the people's will.

"Our forces," he added, "have developed so much politically and militarily that we are able to broaden the warfront to zones that are a mere 30 km from Guatemala City. The Army and the government are aware of this, and that is why Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo was so anxious to travel to the United States recently—to ask the U.S. Congress for new military aid."

According to Monsanto, the Guatemalan military men "are desperate. They want military aid, not because they are at a disadvantage with the Salvadoran or Honduran Armies—in which case they could talk about a threat to Guatemalan security or to the integrity of its territory—but because the rebel forces are increasing."

Monsanto said "the Army is making an enormous effort to try to stop the rebel growth to the extent that so far this year it has already used between 30 and 40 percent of the national budget."

In addition, since the attempted coup d'etat by a group of influential military men on 11 May 1988 against Christian Democratic President Vinicio Cerezo, "the foreign exchange the country then had was given to the Army to purchase weapons and new war materiel to fight the URNG forces."

The Guatemalan defense minister went to Washington twice this year. In Washington, he asked for an increase of U.S. military assistance to Guatemala. In April, he asked for $12 million and at the end of May he returned to Washington to verify the amount of the aid. The U.S. Congress approved a total of $9 million in aid.

The United States suspended military aid to Guatemala in 1977 because of human rights violations, but resumed aid in 1985. Since then, Washington has officially delivered $26 million to Guatemala to purchase parts and war materiel and for training.

Similarly, after the 11 May attempted coup d'etat, President Cerezo's government bought 100,000 U.S.-made M-16 and A-2 rifles to replace the Army's Israeli-made Galil rifles. In addition, the government bought 12 combat and 3 medical helicopters from Arab countries.

Monsanto said that that military increase has left a painful scar of desolation in Guatemala.

Monsanto added: "In 27 years of war, many human lives have been lost. We want to reduce the high price of the war. For that reason, in the last 2 years the URNG has been promoting a series of initiatives and methods to achieve a political solution to the conflict. We believe that solution is possible if the Guatemalan Government and Army admit a need to end the war, a war we did not start."

Guatemala has seen years of violence and social injustice. In 1954, during one of the country's most crucial political times, the constitutional government of Jacobo Arbenz, who promoted agrarian reform, was overthrown. The operation to overthrow Arbenz originated from Honduras and was supposedly devised by the U.S. CIA with the contribution of military men, who then installed General Carlos Castillo Armas in power.

Monsanto took that historical fact as a basis to assert that the military men started the war: "They overthrew Arbenz' democratic government, eliminated democracy

from Guatemala, allowed U.S. Government interference at that time, and took the Guatemalan people's rights away. They are responsible for the country's backwardness, the illiteracy that exists in 70 percent of our population, the malnutrition, and the unhealthiness. These things make a deep impression on anyone who has the slightest education."

We asked Monsanto about the results of the counterinsurgency operations.

Monsanto replied: "We cannot describe the arrest of 100, 200, or 300 peasant families who are fleeing repression as a military achievement. In other words, a military victory could be the annihilation of one of our military units, but that has not happened in Guatemala. The counterinsurgency plan designed by the Army during the administrations of General Efrain Rios Mont (March 1982-August 1983) and Oscar Mejia Victores (August 1983-January 1986) and reinforced during the 1st year of Cerezo's administration is not enough to fight us."

[Melendez] What has been the reaction of the military men?

[Monsanto] They need to grow and modernize the Army, because although the Guatemalan Army has vast experience in counterinsurgency planning, it does not now really have a chance of controlling the guerrilla zones. The Army needs to grow and modernize to conduct a large-scale fight against us and achieve some military victories.

Monsanto added: "For that reason, the efforts the Army made recently, which it called its year-end offensive, was not only a complete failure, but resulted in absolute silence from the Army General Staff and the defense minister himself. Those efforts were an enormous publicity show. Those officials did not say 'those efforts failed,' but they did not say the offensive was successful, because the 300 or 400 families captured by the Army in the Guatemalan mountains cannot be displayed as victories."

Concerning the "Fortaleza-88" Army operation carried out in March and April 1988, Monsanto said: "The Army did not say a word. In other words, it stopped talking about that operation because the concentration of forces it built up for its large-scale operation against some of our war fronts was broken up.

"What the military men actually maintain is the Army's apparatus and its control over the population and territory. After we defeated the two most recent Army operations, we gained population and territory."

The URNG claims to have expanded its area of operation, and Monsanto says that "in the next few months, four new guerrilla fronts will be opened. The military men cannot hide those facts. The Army has begun to admit the large number of soldiers wounded or killed by our guerrilla forces."

Monsanto said that in July alone, "the Army sustained 300 casualties. That figure does not include the number of very important clashes where we have been unable to verify the number of Army casualties because we lack direct methods of doing so. For example, during the year-end operation, we inflicted casualties on the Army in over 80 clashes we did not report."

[Melendez] Where will the new war fronts be located?

[Monsanto] "We have already started operations in the Huehuetenango (border with Mexico) area. We have not operated in that area for several years. We have also started operations in the central and southern areas of El Quiche (also bordering with Mexico), and military operations are now taking place in northern Chimaltenango (central Guatemala). Our most important front will be centered in Guatemala City, where we will start military actions against urban military objectives."

[Melendez] What is the Army's internal situation?

[Monsanto] "The Army's situation is very difficult and serious because the revolutionary forces have recovered the ground they had previously lost. Military governments commonly use stupid and brutal tactics such as scorched earth. When the Guatemalan Army mercilessly razed towns to the ground and killed women, old people, and men, its actions sowed terror and people noticeably reduced their support for the rebels."

Monsanto added: "The people's lack of support placed us in a difficult situation. Under the Cerezo administration brutality has diminished considerably or has been covered up in some manner because the government needs to maintain its democratic image."

Monsanto reported: "There is intense bombing in the areas where the rebel forces operate, and this also affects the civilian population. Repression, however, has diminished in several regions where it used to be very strong. The easing of repression has allowed us to recover our social bases and grow militarily. We have expanded our area of operation and advanced toward the country's interior to the point that we now have a rebel front only 30 km from Guatemala City."

The Army's scorched earth policy (Vietnam style) got the guerrillas into a tangle.

"Two years ago we were reduced to war fronts only in El Peten, El Quiche, Huehuetenango, San Marcos, and Solola. Those isolated regions are quite distant from one another. Now we have direct communication among our military regions and are no longer isolated. This illustrates our military development. We are no longer a small group of men as we used to be," Monsanto said.

Similar to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Guatemalan guerrilla force, organized in the mid-fifties, is one of the oldest rebel organizations in Latin America. Pablo Monsanto joined the Guatemalan rebel forces almost as soon as it was formed.

Monsanto is the son of a worker of Italian origin and peasant Esther Garcia Corso. "We were a very united family," Monsanto said. Monsanto changed his entire life in March and April 1962. When he was 16, he joined the Guatemalan Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), the first Guatemalan guerrilla group.

Monsanto smiled while remembering that part of his life, and he smiled when he said a bit uncomfortably: "I have been married several times."

Monsanto commented on facets of guerrilla initiation: "In March and April 1962, a group of students joined the guerrillas. Many of those students, many of us, are still members of guerrilla groups. I was 16 years old. FAR already existed then, and I joined it as a combatant."

Monsanto recalled his travels through Sierra de las Minas in eastern Guatemala, Sierra de Chacus in Alta Verapaz, and Sierra de Chama in the center of the country: "We finally settled in El Peten Department (northern Guatemala) at the time of what we called the partial defeat of the guerrilla movement. That occurred during the 1960's and after the death in 1966 of Commander Turcios Lima, who was our chief."

With some sadness now, I realize who "died in 1966. I remember, because Che Guevara died in Bolivia in 1967. That was a difficult time for the guerrilla movement. However, we remained in the mountains and rebuilt the organization I now have led since 1970."

Other organizations such as the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EPG) and the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA) were born after that, and they created the URNG in 1980.

However, many internal divisions have affected that "revolutionary unity."

Monsanto stressed: "A division within a political movement, regardless of whether it is a revolutionary movement or not, affects and/or weakens the movement. The URNG organizations went through difficult times, but that stage is definitely overcome; during the last 3 years, the URNG began to improve its organization."

Monsanto, Moran, and Gaspar Ilom are the leaders of the URNG. Ilom—whose real name is Rodrigo Asturias—is the son of Miguel Angel Asturias, a deceased Guatemalan author who was awarded the 1967 Nobel Prize in Literature.

According to Monsanto, "we in the URNG General Command—a political and military organization that makes decisions by consensus or by majority vote—do not act as representatives of our separate organizations but rather as one organization making collective decisions for the revolutionary movement."

He added: "Our movement is becoming more and more integrated on a fundamentally political basis. We try to put aside any issue that could separate us and to proceed on issues we agree on. We concentrate on what unites us, not on our differences or on potential areas of division."

The 42-year-old Monsanto did not want to think about division. He proposed unity as a weapon to negotiate with the Army and the government.

Monsanto smiled again while considering the future and spoke of the need to end the war through political negotiation. He added that his four children will join the war if the conflict persists.

Monsanto said, touching his short beard with his thin fingers: "My eldest daughter is 17 years old. I have three sons: One is 16, another 15, and the youngest is 12. "

Monsanto does not have a fighter's hands. His hands are more like a pianist's...or a writer's.

He spoke of his children with firmness, satisfaction, and pride: "They all live abroad, because it is impossible for them to live in Guatemala."

Before leaving the chair from which he voiced all his thoughts on the situation in Guatemala and Central America, Monsanto again pointed to nowhere with his index finger and finished drinking the last bit of water left in his glass. Almost on his feet, he concluded, smiling through his gray beard: "My children's dream is to join this fight; they are preparing toward this end."

URNG Captures Soldier, Seizes Materiel

PA1309023788 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Sep 88 p 21

[Text] Guerrilla forces attacked a military unit and an Army observation post, captured a soldier, and seized three rifles, according to a report by the CERIGUA news agency.

The guerrillas also occupied several stretches of highway in Huehuetenango, San Marcos, and Suchitepequez Departments.

The report says URNG forces shelled an Army position in the village of Buena Vista in San Marcos, inflicting several casualties.

During the attack on an observation post in Las Animas farm in Santo Domingo, Suchitepequez, the URNG captured a soldier and later released him.

"In that same action, the rebels seized an M-1 rifle and .30-caliber cartridges, two .22-caliber rifles with more than 250 rounds of ammunition, military equipment, and 5 uniforms," the communique stated.

The document also referred to a newspaper report in which Defense Minister General Alejandro Gramajo Morales acknowledges the presence of guerrillas in Guatemalan territory.

Honduras

Protest Note Sent to Nicaragua on Attacks

PA1309133188 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The Honduran Foreign Ministry has charged that Sandinists attacked several Honduran Army posts located on the eastern border with mortar and machinegun fire on Friday.

Through a protest note sent to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, our country stated that the Honduran Armed Forces could lose their patience and respond to this Sandinist fire with the same intensity. [passage omitted]

An excerpt of the note already in the hands of Foreign Minister D'Escoto states: The Honduran guards on the border have been ordered to act calmly and with caution in the face of the provocations to which they have been subjected. However, the note continues, patience and caution have a natural limit in view of the need to defend the country's sovereignty. It would be regrettable if incidents such as those that prompted this protest note forced our guards to respond with the same intensity and meet violence with violence.

Although the note ends very politely, the truth is that its firm tone shows that, at any time, the apparent friendship between the two states could further deteriorate. Additional reports indicate that tensions are high on the border between the two nations in view of the possibility of new attacks, which could be repelled by Honduran troops.

As of late yesterday, the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa had issued no official reaction to the incident; however, a response to the Honduran protest note will supposedly be issued soon since Managua is now studying the Honduran Foreign Ministry's letter.

It has been said that there could be more attacks because of the presence in Honduras of more than 12,000 contras who arrived several weeks ago, which is one of the reasons for the profound differences between the two countries.

Commander Comments

PA1309193188 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The commander of the 110th Brigade sent a telegram to the legislative assembly last night to report the Sandinist attacks on Honduran communities in the El Patuca region. This is the first time a military commander has sent a report of this nature to the assembly, though—according to the Constitution—these reports are supposed to be forwarded to Congress. The commander reported that the enemy launched artillery attacks in the Cerro Pelon, La Campana, Quebrada de Oro, Tapulchin, La Lampara, and other areas in western Honduras. He confirmed that a Honduran soldier was wounded in these attacks and added that Sandinist troops continued to threaten the eastern Honduran military bases.

Colonel Jose de Jesus Vanegas, the 110th Brigade commander, noted that 9th Battalion troops have reported that the Sandinists are mobilizing people and heavy equipment toward the border area near Cerro Pelon. The officer stated that a soldier, Jesus Mario Chica Diaz, was wounded in one of the attacks on La Lampara, Cerro Pelon, and Tapulchin. Honduran troops responded to Sandinist artillery with 81-mm mortars, .50-cal machineguns, and M-60 machineguns. Col Vanegas did not report any other Honduran Army casualties but said that the areas that were attacked sustained material damage.

Nicaragua

President Ortega San Jacinto Battle Speech

PA1309213988 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1552 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at ceremony marking the 132d anniversary of San Jacinto Battle, on San Jacinto farm outside Managua—live]

[Text] Good morning, Nicaraguan brothers. Within the next few days, we will be commemorating the 167th anniversary of our independence from Spain and the 132d anniversary of San Jacinto Battle. We will commemorate these dates at this historic site, where the Nicaraguans, led by Jose Dolores Estrada and with Andres Castro's heroism, defeated the aggressor, invader Yankees—who with their expansionist and proslavery mentality attempted to claim our territory.

Only a few years earlier, after achieving independence, the Central American nations and people had formed a confederation, a meeting of Central American states—which had been their dream, which had been Bolivar's dream for a united Latin America, and which had been Morazan's dream.

Independence from Spain on 15 September 1821 opened Central America's doors to the development of trade, commerce, and capitalism. Thus, in the midst of the

contradictions generated by this new situation, with the leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parties at odds, using the people as instruments of their interests, and with American companies already using our territory to travel east to west—which was difficult to do in the United States—the Yankees invaded our fatherland.

The imperialists, of course, were willing to expand wherever conditions allowed, and when necessary, they created the conditions. Those conditions were present in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan people did not invite the Yankees or Walker. The Nicaraguan people did not name Walker president; that was done by the representatives of those economic interests, who gradually organized, developed, and consolidated between 1821 and 19 July 1979.

Somoza and Somozism were nothing but the final expressions of capitalist, imperialist domination in our country. Somoza and Somozism were nothing but the last representatives of those interests consolidated at the expense of Nicaragua's sovereignty and independence and the workers' literacy, and by exploiting the peasants and laborers.

Therefore, Somozist domination was not the exception, but the continuation and culmination of a capitalistic domination process in which Liberals and Conservatives took turns governing. Even though the two sides had deep contradictions and came close to fighting, both defended a single system, both defended similar interests, and both defended the same power—the power to exploit the people, the power to have freedom of expression for themselves, the privileged Liberal or Conservative minorities, while denying that freedom to the great majorities. They even had the power to institutionalize, as these rulers did on various occasions, social and economic discrimination against Nicaraguans—to participate in an election or become a candidate, a Nicaraguan had to have a certain amount of capital; otherwise, he had no rights; capitalism did not give him the rights to participate in an election. These elections were assumed to be democratic and popular.

Between 1821 and 1979, the capitalists, oligarchs, bourgeoisie, businessmen, and farmers wielded power in Nicaragua. They disposed of power in Nicaragua. They dictated and imposed their democracies in Nicaragua. They assumed the right to steal land from the peasants as part of their democracy. They assumed the right to repress the workers as part of their democracy. They assumed the right to take over the communications media as part of their democracies.

That was the democracy they promoted in our homeland. Those were the freedoms and justice that the oligarchs, bourgeoisie, Liberals, and Conservatives promoted in our homeland. There was a great difference between the oppressor and the oppressed. The workers, the peasants, the exploited, the oppressed were only close, very close, to the properties of the exploiters. They were close, inside the properties of the exploiters, to work for the exploiters, to enrich the exploiters, while being subjected to this working process that turned men into illiterate instruments that were not able to organize through unions and not able to express themselves. Men were turned into instruments for the accumulation of capital by those who wielded power in Nicaragua.

Somoza was not the only one who tyrannized Nicaragua; he was the last tyrant of the Liberal and Conservative tyrannies that oppressed our people, our homeland from 1821 to 1979. Tyrants were the Conservatives who delivered our homeland to the Yankees. Tyrants were the Conservatives and Liberals who exploited the working people. Tyrants were the Liberals who in the name of Liberalism developed their own interests to the detriment of the great majorities.

The Diaz's, the Moncada's, the Chamorro's, and the Somoza's were tyrants; they were all united in a single purpose to maintain, develop, and strengthen a capitalist and proimperialist exploitation regime. They all fought with each other to obey the Yankee empire. The historical fact of the Sandinist revolution, therefore, marks a new stage and establishes a new and true meaning for democracy. Since 19 July 1979, Nicaragua will never again be the Nicaragua of the Chamorro's, the Diaz', the Sacasa's, the Moncada's, the Somoza's—because the Nicaraguan people, our nation, ceased being a Yankee government property on 19 July 1979. It ceased being the property of the oligarchs, businessmen, capitalists, Liberals, and Conservatives, and other parties with which they tried to conceal the same interests.

On 19 July 1979, the Nicaraguan people for the first time became the masters of power and their history, and, therefore, masters of their present and future. This is how we have formed a state with true democracy. Our state has been designed to defend the interests of the majority, not those of minorities. This is a pluralist state, which gives minorities a chance to participate and help defend the contry's sovereignty, independence, and the standard of living of Nicaraguan workers and peasants. Our country's democracy has given the Nicaraguan people the right to express their views. Democracy has also given the oligarchs, proimperialists, turncoats, and bourgeois a chance to speak out.

This is pluralism and democracy. On 11 September, we recalled what the bourgoisie, capitalist, and proimperialist democracy means. We recalled this by looking at the brother Chilean people. One 11 September, the Yankee government mounted á military coup with the collaboration of the oligarchs, businessmen, rightist newspapers and radio stations, and the Army, overthrowing the people's unity government headed by Salvador Allende.

At this moment when we are fighting these same enemies who assassinated Allende, assassinated the Chilean workers, assassinated the Chilean people, and imposed a brutal government on Chile—which as of 11 September

has lasted 15 years—Nicaraguans can clearly see the attitude of the bourgeoisie, the turncoats, and imperialism when they have a chance to strike and when they decide to do so.

In Chile, there was an attack against an elected government; there was an air attack against the government palace.

These were preceded by attacks staged by the rightist communications media, which were financed by the Yankee government and by the CIA; these were preceded by attacks staged by businessmen; these were preceded by the manipulation of labor sectors led to strike to undermine the bases of the people's unity government; these were preceded by a slanderous campaign against the people's unity government; these were preceded by the policy of blockades and economic embargoes against the people's unity government. They had been preparing the psychological and political conditions internally and abroad to justify the criminal blow against the Chilean people and against the people's unity government headed by Salvador Allende.

Then came the blow, which was a brutal one. Thousands of Chilean workers and intellectuals were murdered. Those who supported the people's unity government were the enemy and were treated as such by the imperialists and the coup supporters. Anyone with identification cards showing they belonged to a revolutionary party was treated as the enemy; they were tortured and then murdered. Stadiums were filled with prisoners in Chile because jails were already full and the graves had no more room for more murdered people.

That is the bourgeoisie democracy defending its power; that is imperialism defending its power; that is capitalism defending its power; that is businessmen and landowners defending their power—thereby not respecting the so-called democratic game, which Salvador Allende had won by winning the elections. They could care less. They had to defend their power and, to do so, they had to use all those brutal, criminal instruments and methods to bathe the heroic Chilean people in blood.

Now, 15 years after the coup d'etat in Chile, the people realize they has suffered a great defeat, but they did not lose the battle, they did not lose their awareness, and they did not lose their morale. Now, 15 years after the imperialist coup d'etat in Chile, the heroic people of Salvador Allende and of Pablo Neruda continue to fight, they continue to struggle, and they will win. We are sure of that.

The history of Chile is a history Yankee imperialism has wanted and tried to repeat here in Nicaragua. They have used and are using an economic embargo, blockade, and actions against Nicaragua. They have used and are using the right-wing media, radio, and the so-called opposition parties—all of them are right-wing; even if they call themselves leftist or revolutionary, they are all counterrevolutionary. They have used rightist labor unions and other groups, which do not call themselves rightists, but are really counterrevolutionary. There are no third positions in a confrontation of this kind. One can try to invent third positions, just as imperialism has tried to do, but there are only two positions: revolution or counterrevolution. There are only two powers: people's power or the power of capitalism. There is only the power of workers and peasants or the power of businessmen, large land owners, and bankers. There is only the power of the people, who defend their independence, sovereignty, and self-determination, or the power subjected to imperialism, which calls for dependency and rejects sovereignty and self-determination.

There are no alternatives. One is either with the revolution or against the revolution. The positions are clear, and imperialism has utilized different methods to try winning over the conscience of the Nicaraguan people. It has used slander and uses slander every day. It has used lies in such a shameless manner that the rightist media and the rightist parties or the parties of the internal counterrevolutionary forces speak of the political and economic problems in our country, ignoring the war. For them, the war does not exist.

The internal counterrevolutionaries have repeated the lies so often that they themselves believe the war does not exist, economic and social problems are results of the victory of the revolutionary government, and this revolutionary government has no knowledge of economic policy and has not known how to rule.

The difference between Chile and Nicaragua is that in Chile, the people reached the government but did not assume power; power was left in the hands of the capitalists, the exploiters of imperialism, who did not relinquish power. The people were not able to assume power because it was thought power could be assumed by peaceful means, by the democratic-bourgeoisie ways that reached maximum expression in Chile.

It was also demonstrated there that capitalism and imperialism were not prepared to surrender power peacefully. They were not even prepared to surrender the government by peaceful means. Therefore, they decided to make that brutal blow against the Popular Unity government.

The difference between Chile 15 years ago and Nicaragua today, after 7 years and 8 months of confrontation with the Yankee empire, is that here power came into the people's hands because on 19 July 1979 they seized that power, which the people will never return to the bourgeoisie, the businessmen, the oligarchs, the exploiters, and imperialism.

The people will give these gentlemen the opportunity to participate, and they can send whatever message they wish, make whatever speech they want, but the people

will never surrender this power—power that has meant the bloodletting of thousands of Nicaraguans before the revolutionary victory and the bloodletting of thousands of Nicaraguans after the revolutionary victory, which is now being defended by workers and peasants. These workers and peasants are convinced that now they have the power, even with the limitations, even with the problems, even with the difficulties.

I have been talking in the last few days with leaders of the workers and peasants. We have been meeting to discuss the economic problems, but we were discussing our problems, the problems facing the people as a result of the Yankee aggression, the problems facing the people as a result of the Yankee embargo and blockade. We are discussing our problems.

But we are not talking about problems that would be faced by the people if our country were to be subjected to capitalist, imperialist domination. We are seeking an answer to those problems within the revolutionary framework, but we are not making concessions to an imperialist government that wants to impose upon our country a system like the one they had been nurturing from the time of our independence from Spain until 19 July 1979.

The enormous difference between Nicaragua today and Chile 15 years ago is that the Yankee empire does not have an army here with which to stage a coup. It has counterrevolutionary and proimperialist opposition parties, counterrevolutionary and proimperialist labor unions, and counterrevolutionary and proimperialist press and radio stations, but it does not have a counterrevolutionary and imperialist army, because here it is the people who are armed. The people are armed and are in favor of independence and self-determination. If the people are anti-imperialist, anti-oligarchist, and anticapitalist, then, logically, this army cannot defend imperialist and capitalist interests.

Armies are not apolitical anywhere in the world; they are at the service of a particular plan or system, or social, economic, and political order. Armies either serve and defend capitalist interests or defend the people's revolutionary interests. The EPS has been established here to defend the people's interests, and therefore to defend revolutionary interests.

It is important to remember the example of Chile, not only to reaffirm our militant solidarity with the Chilean people during this heroic September, but also to see it as an example of what would happen in our fatherland if imperialism were to win by using the mercenary forces or through the intervention of its own troops in our territory.

The massacre of the Chilean people would be nothing compared to the way the Yankees would exterminate the Nicaraguan people. However, it is clear that, for the Yankees, this desire, this obsession has not been and will never be easy to fulfill in Nicaragua. It is not that the Yankees lack the desire to invade Nicaragua; Reagan has not been lacking in that desire. They have forces; they are powerful; they have great resources, many weapons; they are a world economic power. Therefore, from the viewpoint of materiel, they have the resources to move directly against Nicaragua. But they have not done it, because they know the people here are armed and the people here will fight, because it would entail the death of thousands of Yankee soldiers and because they could not defeat this revolution even if they invaded with their troops. They know they would come up against the resistance of our people and the Central American people, just as the filibusterer Walker did when he tried to take possession of Nicaragua and Central America.

They know this perfectly well, which is why they do not dare to invade Nicaragua. They have not done so. They have refrained from invading Nicaragua, and not because they are greatly concerned about international opinion. If they could be sure they could invade Nicaragua and wipe out the revolution in 2 or 3 days, they would have already done so. They do not care much about international protest, because, after all, international protest is no more than just that: international protest.

However, the Yankees are certain that Nicaragua has a combative people, an armed people, a people who are defeating the instrument they have been using to attack us—the mercenary forces—a people who have gained combat experience unparalleled by any other Latin American army in confronting a sustained aggression from the Yankee empire over the past 7 years and 8 months, a people with high morale, with valor, with strength. It is these heroic people of Sandino, these heroic people of Jose Dolores Estrada, Zeledon, and Andres Castro who have persuaded the Yankee government it is not to its advantage to intervene in Nicaragua.

We cannot forget the Chilean example. We cannot lose sight of the fact that these rightist opponents—they are all proimperialist and counterrevolutionary; the counterrevolutionary positions unite them, even if they claim to have political and ideological differences—are capable of doing the same thing, of being accomplices to the same crimes that the Yankee empire, the military, and the bourgeoisie committed in Chile 15 years ago.

Let us not look at them, therefore, as harmless individuals. They try to portray themselves as harmless victims of the revolution, of the people's government. However, those same people who are now trying to appear harmless, those businessmen and landowners who now want to appear harmless are the same ones who in the period of the Conservatives and Liberals did not hesitate to shoot a peasant to take his land, or kick a worker, a laborer, simply because they were dissatisfied with his work. They did not hesitate to dismiss those workers or turn the National Guard on them. They did not hesitate to be accomplices to the crimes committed against the laborers and peasants.

They are not in the least the docile doves they wish to appear; they are not harmless people. They are harmless now because the power is in the hands of the people, who have put them in their proper place. However, we already know what it is like for power to be those people's hands. They cease being doves and become scorpions. They cease being doves and become criminals who try to justify everything within their constitutional framework. They use the constitutional framework to justify the repression and exploitation of the people, to justify wresting the land away from the people, repression, murder, and torture. They created and imposed their constitutional framework and their laws. They recognized the parties they wished and did not recognize the leftist and revolutionary parties.

If, on that 19 July 1979, the revolutionary process had been headed, not by the FSLN... [changes thought] If instead of the FSLN, there had been Somoza's process of change—because there would not have been a revolutionary process—led, let us suppose, by an opposition party, then that party would have immmediately established a classist, capitalist, business-oriented government in which the workers, laborers, and peasants would not be taken into account. Those capitalists would have immediately formed a government subordinated to the Yankee empire; strengthened the Somozist guard, without Somoza; and banned the FSLN and those other parties claiming to be revolutionary but that today are an instruments of the counterrevolution, imperialism, and bourgeoisie here in this country. They would have sidelined those groups, as they neglected them from 1821 to 1979. The bourgeoisie here always sidelined parties that defined themselves as revolutionary, advanced, progressive, or Marxist. History would have been different, and the FSLN would have had to go underground, because they would not recognize us. They would have used a Somoza National Guard to persecute and murder us, and we would have had to fight against that capitalist and proimperialist government.

But the story does not go like that, which is what counts. That was the desire of the imperialists, but the people's desire, willingness, and firm determination was to be free and independent and take power, once and for all, for the people, workers, peasants—those who had been ignored by the oligarchs, Liberals, and Conservatives. We wanted to take power for those who had been exploited by the oligarchs and Conservatives, for peasants and those whose lands had been taken away by oligarchs and Conservatives; power for the workers who had been repressed by oligarchs and Conservatives; and power for teachers who had been repressed by oligarchs and Conservatives and forced to teach history according to which Somoza was hero and Sandino was bandit, criminal, and hoodlum.

This is the history Nicaragua has been writing since 19 July 1979. This is the history Nicaragua will continue to write with or without Reagan. The Nicaraguan people's decisions are made by the Nicaraguan people in Nicaragua, not in Washington. When we have insisted on dialogue with the Yankee government, it was not for them to decide on our sovereignty, independence, and self-determination, but to talk with the Yankees because they, as a state and a country that supposedly holds normal relations with Nicaragua, have been attacking Nicaragua.

We have told the Yankees: We will defend ourselves from your aggression and we will continue to defend ourselves even if you invade us. We will defeat you even if you invade us.

But we are willing to reach an equitable agreement with you. We have attempted to hold a dialogue with the Yankees to seek an equitable agreement. We demand that the Yankees respect the will of the Central American presidents who signed the Esquipulas agreement on 7 August 1987; however, the Yankees have been conspiring to undermine it. The Yankees are involved in many maneuvers. They are pressuring the Central American governments so that the Esquipulas agreement will not be complied with and so that the Central American foreign ministers will not meet. But we are determined to continue working for the Esquipulas peace plan.

On this heroic date of 14 [as heard] September and at San Jacinto farm, which is a symbol of heroism, resistance, and dignity of the Nicaraguan people, we appeal to the Central American peoples and governments to continue struggling to achieve peace with democracy—with justice and freedom. All of us must continue working for this plan. We urge the Central American governments, particularly those very vulnerable to U.S. pressure, not to yield to this pressure. After all, it is the peoples who will try them and judge them.

In the framework of the commemoration of the 167th anniversary of Central America's independence, this historic step taken in 1821 marked a determination for independence of our peoples. This determination is still imperative. We Central Americans must continue struggling for the total and definitive independence of our peoples and nations. We must continue struggling to turn Central America into a peaceful zone free from all foreign military presence, a peace zone where we can turn into a reality Bolivar's and Morazan's dreams of Central American, Latin American, and Caribbean unity.

On this 132d anniversary of San Jacinto Battle, we must reaffirm our fighting determination to continue defending this revolution of the people because our enemies have not abandoned the idea of destroying our revolutionary process. They continue plotting.

We have invited the counterrevolutionaries, the mercenaries, to a meeting in Guatemala on 19 and 20 September. We will see what their response is. Will they or will they not accept? The invitation is still open. Our Vice Foreign Minister Comrade Victor Hugo Tinoco will

attend that meeting at the head of the Nicaraguan delegation. The mercenaries' willingness to negotiate will be tested there once again. We will see if they are willing to find a peaceful solution, or if they are willing to make us give them a military response until they are totally crushed. The Nicaraguan people and government have these two options: the peaceful or the military option. We have the moral and political strength to negotiate, but we also have the moral and political strength to crush them militarily if they do not agree to negotiation.

On this anniversary of San Jacinto Battle and of Central American independence, and the 15th anniversary of Salvador Allende's assassination, we also reaffirm the internationalist spirit of the Nicaraguan revolution. In the same way we support the just cause of the Chilean people, we support the just causes of the South African people, the people of Namibia, and the peoples throughout the world who are struggling for peace, independence, and self-determination.

On this anniversary of the independence of Central America and San Jacinto Battle, we reaffirm our determination to continue building this new society, with youths who are prepared to fight and win in all areas, and with teachers who today have the opportunity to send a true, open, and indisputable message to Nicaraguan youths—teachers who previously had to send their message clandestinely, because they had been obliged to use the old textbooks, which said, as I already mentioned, that Somoza was a hero and Sandino was a bandit. Those teachers used to say that what the history textbooks said and what was taught in the classrooms was not true, because the bandit was Somoza, and the hero, Sandino.

We have given these heroic and devoted teachers well-deserved recognition today, and we are certain that with the strength and awareness of the Nicaraguan youth, teachers, laborers, peasants, patriotic farmers, EPS soldiers, Interior Ministry fighters, women, technicians, professionals, intellectuals, Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, people of Monimbo and Subtiava, and all Nicaraguans, we will continue to fight and to win. Free fatherland [crowd shouts: "Or death!"; applause]

RN Willing To Meet Government in Guatemala

PA1309232388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2259 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Sep (ACAN-EFE)— The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) has agreed to meet in Guatemala City with a Sandinist government negotiating team, but not on the date proposed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, a "contra" source reported today.

The RN leaders will not agree to any meeting with the Sandinist government in Managua; however, they are willing to hold talks in Guatemala City on 22 and 23 September, said the source, who asked not to be identified.

The "contra" spokesman added that RN leaders Adolfo Calero, Roberto Ferrey, Wilfredo Montalban, Alfredo Cesar, Enrique Bermudez, Diego Bickfer, and Aristides Sanchez will arrive in Guatemala City on 22 September.

Government Reviewing Visa Pact With U.S.

PA1309234588 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Sep 88 p 2

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sources announced yesterday that Nicaragua is reviewing the agreements outlining the procedures and time frame under which U.S. officials can obtain Nicaraguan visas. The sources pointed out that the Nicaraguan Government is doing this because the U.S. Administration violated the current agreements.

The sources told BARRICADA that the United States violated the agreements when it refused to issue a visa to Carlos Tunnermann, who was exercising his right to represent Nicaragua before the OAS, an international organization.

Nicaragua's agreements with the U.S. Embassy in Managua set time frames under which U.S. officials would be granted visas. The agreements cover visas for representatives of international organizations, transit visas, and visas for temporary or permanent appointments of U.S. officials.

After the White House decided to expel Nicaraguan Ambassador Tunnermann along with seven other diplomats of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington last July, Nicaragua decided to review the aforementioned agreements.

International laws establish that Nicaragua has a right to be fully represented at international organizations, and in this case the United States violated the agreements.

The Foreign Ministry sources added that visas for security personnel (Marines) of the Yankee Embassy in Managua have been issued. The sources also said a visa was issued to a U.S. State Department official who will arrive in Nicaragua soon, although the exact date has not been given.

It is important to recall that U.S. citizens do not require any type of visa to enter Nicaragua. They only have to fill out a tourist card and have all their papers in order, which they then present to the airline on which they are traveling.

The issuance of visas to the seven Yankee officials who will replace the ones expelled along with Ambassador Melton, however, is included in the review of the agreements mentioned earlier in this report, because the principle of diplomatic reciprocity applies in this case.

Maj Wheelock on Attacks From Honduran Territory
PA1309165188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of EPS military intelligence, has announced that military attacks from Honduran territory against Nicaraguan positions have increased over the past 2 weeks.

Attacks have been staged in San Pedro de Potrero Grande and Moropuchi over the past week, Maj Wheelock said, adding that the rebels used mortars, machineguns, and M-79 grenade launchers.

RN: 'Huge' Soviet Weapons Shipment Arrives
PA1409024488 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0139 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] San Jose, 13 Sep (REUTER)—The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] said in this capital today that a Soviet ship loaded with weapons has arrived in Nicaragua.

According to a document delivered to REUTER today by the organization, which is opposed to the Nicaraguan Government, a "huge arsenal" arrived in Nicaragua on the Soviet ship "Kunda," which docked in the port of Rama on 5 September.

The shipment consisted of six Korean-made armed speedboats, antipersonal mines, M-79 rockets, Soviet-made rockets used for MI-19 and MI-21 helicopters, and mortars of various sizes, the document stated. The document added that the arsenal also included ammunition for AK-47 rifles and spare parts for Sandinist military trucks. The document stated "the cargo is so huge, it has not yet been entirely unloaded."

It added that the Sandinist Army had taken tight security measures in the vicinity of the port and along the roads leading to the military bases where the cargo is to be stored.

The RN document stated the Sandinists have taken advantage of the regional peace agreements to improve their military situation.

Soviet military aid to Nicaragua amounts to over $40 million a month, according to the RN, which described the alleged shipment as "another frank violation of the cease-fire and of all the agreements that have been signed."

Bermudez on Truce, Sandinist Arms, Talks
PA1409043388 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance leader Enrique Bermudez by Rafael Mojica Obregon in Miami; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mojica] Commander Bermudez, last week Honduran radio stations reported that Sandinist troops were concentrating along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. There have been many comments on this. As an experienced military man, and based on your knowledge through the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] intelligence services, what do you think is the reason for this concentration of Sandinist troops at the border with Honduras?

[Bermudez] This is happening because since the Sandinists signed the Sapoa agreement, they have been taking advantage of the truce they were granted through that agreement to improve their military situation, to the point that at this time they have gained irreversible advantages.

As everyone should know, the Sandinists signed the Sapoa agreement because they were interested in avoiding the high cost of the armed struggle. In exchange, they promised to grant a number of concessions in the Sapoa agreement, such as freedom of expression, amnesty for political prisoners, revising the military service law, and resuming the national dialogue. We agreed to suspend military activities in exchange for those concessions from the government. What has happened? First, the Sandinists have not complied with any of the commitments they made in Sapoa. Second, they have taken advantage of the truce. They have deployed troops, they have stepped up compulsory military service to increase the number of troops, they are rebuilding all the military positions we destroyed in 1987 and are building new positions in areas they have discovered are key military points, and they have deployed a number of battalions to areas where we have reduced our military presence. They are doing this with complete freedom, and they are resupplying their forces with complete freedom, taking advantage of the truce. Their troops are not being ambushed [words indistinct].

[Mojica] Commander Bermudez, [words indistinct] through Cuba continues sending arms, ammunition, and all kind of sophisticated weapons to Daniel Ortega's government. What can you tell us about this? Have the Sandinists received the latest arms shipment as scheduled?

[Bermudez] This is another flagrant violation of the Sapoa agreement, because if both sides agreed on a cease-fire, neither one should try to take advantage of the other. If we are not resupplying our forces, why should the Sandinists have that right? Since January, they have been receiving shipments of military equipment, military supplies worth—according to the Pentagon—approximately $40 million a month. We have protested this many times, and now we know for sure that the Soviet ship "Kunda" arrived at Arlen Siu Port in the Rama River with military equipment.

It brought six mortar-equipped boats, antipersonnel mines, M-79 grenades, helicopter guns, ammunition for AC-47 planes, mortars, parts for military trucks, etc. This shows that the Sandinists are taking advantage of the cease-fire to rearm and that they are not really willing

to find a peaceful solution to the problem. It shows that they have been deceiving the observers, the Central American presidents, the U.S. Congress, and the Nicaraguan people.

[Mojica] What do you think of Daniel Ortega's proposal that [Vice Foreign Minister] Victor Hugo Tinoco meet with the RN in Guatemala City to agree on a new round of negotiations in Managua?

[Bermudez] The reason behind this is that in September and the 1st week of October there will be debates in the U.S. Congress over resuming aid to the RN. The proposal aims to show during the debates that the Sandinists are willing to continue the negotiations. The Sandinists just want to send Congress the message that they have good intentions and that they want to negotiate. That is absolutely false, because their aim is solely to exert influence on or to convince Congress that they are willing to negotiate and that therefore there is no need to provide military aid to the RN.

[Mojica] On his return from Rome, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said he hopes negotiations between the RN and the Sandinist regime will resume. What are the RN's conditions for a new round of talks with the Managua regime?

[Bermudez] We have been very clear in our negotiations. We have always been willing to find a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan problem. We have made countless proposals to the Sandinist regime. On 13 January 1983, the FDN made the first cease-fire proposal. That proposal contained the same points as our current proposal. They have not changed. The Sandinist regime, however, is not really politically willing to find any solution to the problem. We are willing to continue the negotiations, but we are not willing to continue negotiations whose purpose is to have the Sandinists look good internationally by saying that they are negotiating, thus allowing themselves to obtain the economic aid they desperately need. We are willing to negotiate, but we want the agenda to clearly specify all the negotiating points we have proposed in the past. The main objective of those points is democratization in Nicaragua.

[Mojica] With the beginning of the U.S. Congressional debates in the coming weeks and in view of Daniel Ortega's propaganda campaign, will the RN make known what is really taking place in Nicaragua?

[Bermudez] We are going to present an analysis of the entire situation: the Sandinists' violations of the Esquipulas and Sapoa agreements, our willingness to find a political solution, and the Sandinists' deception and lack of good faith.

Minister on Economic Measures, 'Survival Economy'
PA1409034388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Interview with Planning Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca by unidentified reporter in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Martinez] The view prevailing in the production sector is incorrect, because the economic measures aim to achieve three basic goals, as we have reasserted.

First, we must overcome the crisis by implementing a survival economy. This is necessary given the economy's deterioration following many years of aggression against our country. We therefore must counter the crisis and not let the crisis worsen our economic situation.

Second, the measures were implemented to take specific actions through the foreign exchange houses and to increase the workers' salaries, thus encouraging the work force. All these measures aim to increase our country's export capacity, which is undoubtedly one of the main limitations we encounter. We must create and develop a much more clear and specific macroeconomic framework, based on our economic capabilities. This will let our businessmen and producers carry out their production plans and improve our economic situation.

Third, the measures aim to control an inflation that was not caused by a domestic situation. The current inflation is a result of the war in which Nicaragua is immersed and of the slump in the international markets on which Nicaragua depends. We must handle inflation in such a way that it does not represent an obstacle to our efforts to increase our exports and to encourage the people's participation in economic activities vital to our country.

[Reporter] Comrade Minister, have the latest economic measures affected inflation? Has inflation increased, or is it the same? What is the outlook for the rest of the year?

[Martinez] We began to implement the economic measures in February and have steadily continued to do so. We are trying to control inflation. We never claimed that we would be able to curb inflation overnight.

We do believe that we can take advantage of the situation to increase our exports and to even better distribute the economic benefits throughout all of Nicaraguan society. This can be done by better dealing with inflation, meaning that we must curb inflation. We believe this is a positive sign, and we have seen how the inflation rate has decreased in recent months.

We know we cannot solve this problem overnight because it is the result of 8 years of crisis caused by the U.S. war against Nicaragua. Likewise, we cannot solve overnight a problem that many Latin American countries have not been able to solve in many years—and they had no war, aggression, or economic boycott. This

problem demands various measures, which Nicaragua has begun to implement on a medium-term basis to increase the possibilities of improving the country's economic and social situation. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is there economic growth in Nicaragua right now, or is there a recession?

[Martinez] We must admit that we are currently in the process of reorganizing most of the economic activities that were heavily affected by the lack of foreign exchange. We cannot say that we will have economic growth this year, but we can say that we are managing a survival economy. The people are quite aware that the survival economy has been imposed on Nicaragua through the war we have suffered for 8 years.

[Reporter] How much does Nicaragua need to survive?

[Martinez] The resources to survive... [changes thought] It all depends on how you want to survive. If you want to survive according to Nicaragua's reality, then you need to increase exports and rationalize the use of imports. We are currently importing about $800 million worth of products per year. We believe these imports can be reduced if you rationalize their use, or at least reduce imports to a level at which production can still be increased. We would progressively reduce the difference between what we purchase abroad and what we produce here.

Government Official on 'Falsified' Documents

PA1409021588 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Sep 88 p 5

[Text] "This is but another falsification like those of the past 2 years in Costa Rica, which were denounced at that time," Alejandro Bendana, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, said regarding an alleged internal FSLN document on Esquipulas II, cited in yesterday's edition of LA PRENSA.

Bendana said such falsities have been picked up by media that irresponsibly reproduced "documents" drafted in Costa Rica, in a campaign launched by the U.S. Embassy in that country. The Nicaraguan Government condemned it on that occasion.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official recalled that when that campaign was disclosed, broad details were given with names and surnames of the members of the so-called "information unit," located near Rohrmoser Boulevard in San Jose, headed by Tomas Castillo, who is the chief of the CIA office in the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica.

The falsified documents, Bendana explained, have a specific purpose, basically to sabotage the peace negotiating process. The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry said 12 documents have been falsified and distributed. These were described by experts in the matter as of inferior quality.

The Foreign Ministry, Bendana said, is keeping abreast of this tendentious campaign that has been intensified in the wake of the obvious failure of the policy of the Reagan administration in Central America, particularly regarding Nicaragua.

"Obviously," Bendana concluded, "there are media serving as instruments against Nicaragua because of their interest in dollars or because of their ideological commitments with the Reagan administration."

Panama

13th-Month Bonus Payment When Funds Available

PA1309235788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2323 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] A bulletin from the National Information System says the Panamanian Government is willing to pay the second half of the 13th-month bonus payment, but the payment will be made when the government has sufficient funds to do so. The note states that Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, said the 13th-month bonus payment is a legitimate workers' achievement that must be respected. Solis adds that it is impossible to pay the bonus until more revenue is collected, because if it is paid now, the checks would not be backed by the necessary funds.

University Official on U.S. 'Penetration Efforts'

PA1209162888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 11 Sep 88 p 10-B

[Interview with Professor Filiberto Morales Rios, University of Panama technical assistance director for research and postgraduate studies, by Baltazar Aizpurua—date and place not given]

[Text] [Aizpurua] In various circles there have been reports of U.S. interference in the University of Panama. What is your opinion?

[Morales] Regardless of deep disagreements over the nature and possible solutions to the crisis, there is increasing concern among university patriots about what is being called an assault on the national university by U.S. agencies' penetration efforts.

Some report that the concentrated level of intervention by the CIA, USIS, AID, the U.S. Embassy, and other security organizations is so extensive that it constitutes one of the determining factors in the university students' position with regard to U.S. aggression, which is contrary to the historical anti-imperialistic and anti-oligarchic conduct of the university.

[Aizpurua] What does the university think of this level of U.S. penetration?

[Morales] The U.S. agencies' penetration in the university has resulted not only in the removal of a valuable infrastructure from the patriotic struggle, but has had an adverse effect on the participation of students, workers, teachers, and authorities, which is much more worrisome, because their desire and ability to struggle for the defense of the nation has been diminished.

[Aizpurua] What does the future hold based on these facts?

[Morales] Despite these negative influences, it seems to us that the time is right for patriotic elements within the university to carry out an extensive and exhaustive investigation into the CIA presence within the university. In the short term, an exhaustive investigation such as the one we propose should help determine who is responsible and help stop the antinational forces operating within the university. These antinational forces should in no way be confused with the sectors that oppose the present government with varying political philosophies.

[Aizpurua] Do you believe that the University of Panama is another objective of the U.S. aggression?

[Morales] Two things lead us to believe that it would be at the very least naive to assume that the U.S. aggression against Panama would not include the University of Panama. One is the "psychological warfare" that the Reagan administration has used as an instrument of its global hegemonic strategy, which is directed toward attracting Latin American intellectuals—Panama is no exception—especially students and professors. This is achieved through a reorganization of the universities to conform with the U.S. technocratic-business model and through programs of cooperation, technical assistance, scholarships, exchanges, publications, research, subsidies, donations, and so forth.

Furthermore, at this time there is enough evidence to confirm that U.S. agencies have increased their operations at the University of Panama through officials who, in many cases, act openly and with impunity. It is not by chance then that scholarships and exchange programs for students, professors, and university authorities proliferated during the last term. In fact, in his article "The CIA and the University; After the Scholarships' Bait" published a few weeks ago, Carlos Lorenzo reported the antipatriotic nature of a program sponsored by the CIA and USIS at the University of Panama directed toward our graduating students.

[Aizpurua] In view of the seriousness of your charges, do you feel that an investigation should be conducted at the university?

[Morales] An investigation into CIA operations at the university should clear the serious doubts and concerns of university patriots. Here are some questions that should be answered to the satisfaction of the university and the nation:

1. Who are—if any—the U.S. citizens carrying out teaching, research, or advisory activities at the university and what institutions do they represent? Under what agreement and conditions are these activities conducted?

2. Who are—if any—the professors, researchers, and University of Panama officials—whether citizens or foreigners—who work for the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Government agencies or for the U.S. Armed Forces?

3. Is it or is it not true that University of Panama students attend classes and conduct laboratory work at U.S. Government or Armed Forces installations?

4. Is it or is it not true that the University of Delaware's mission is to conduct research on the Panamanian people's attitude toward the Torrijos-Carter treaties and the presence of U.S. military bases beyond the year 2000?

5. What U.S. Government, government-affiliated, nongovernmental, or private agencies, institutions, or missions have ties with the University of Panama? What are their goals? What is the role of those agencies in terms of U.S. interests?

6. Which of the investigations or actions, if any, being carried out by U.S. agencies through various agreements with the University of Panama are of a classified nature or involve restricted publication in the United States for security reasons?

7. Is there any program coordinated between AID or USIS and the University of Panama for the distribution of university textbooks written by U.S. authors at subsidized prices? Has the university sent any of its officials to AID or USIS centers in Mexico and Guatemala to train them for implementing the program? Has the university received the first installment of the textbooks?

8. What is the nature of the exchange programs between U.S. universities and the University of Panama in the areas of curriculum, educational methodology, educational programs, teachers' preparation, agrarian sciences, communications, and health sciences?

9. Is the research carried out by U.S. agencies, within the framework of their agreements with the University of Panama, being done for economic or military purposes? Does the University of Panama have relations with agencies that are involved in U.S. defense or security interests?

10. What U.S. Government, government-affiliated, or private agencies finance or make donations to the University of Panama? For what purposes?

[Aizpurua] What must be done to counter or to resolve the situation?

[Morales] We believe that the responsibility of every patriotic university member, regardless of their various socioeconomic or political views, must counter the U.S. plans against our nation, particularly when these plans include turning the House of Octavio Mendez Pereira [first rector of the University of Panama] into a Trojan Horse.

DEPAT Director on Canal Treaty Anniversary

PA0909172388 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Sep 88 pp 1, 6

[Article by Reinaldo Labastide]

[Text] "The aggression is not against this government, not against its leaders, but against the survival of a country of dignified men whose only sin is demanding that its rights and the treaty be respected," said Major Daniel Delgado Diamante, director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate (DEPAT).

Maj Delgado made the statement today in the Foreign Ministry's Ricardo J. Alfaro room during a ceremony to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter treaty.

Maj Delgado added: "Therefore, we must unite all Panamanians to singlemindedly vanquish, as did David, that Goliath, the Yankee aggressor."

He said the United States is not interested in correctly executing the treaty to hand over the canal to Panama in the year 2000; instead, it wants a military permanence on our soil after that time, because it considers its military bases here as its southern border.

Maj Delgado made his remarks in the presence of officials and guests of the Foreign Ministry, stressing the most significant points of the execution of the Panama Canal treaty.

The labor policies implemented by the U.S. Government through the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] have been a source of permanent conflict with the Panamanian Government and the PCC unions.

Nevertheless, he said the PCC Board of Directors' approval of "the labor policy guidelines" for the PCC employment system was an advance in labor relations.

He added that with the enactment of the Panama Canal treaty, all people hired by the U.S. Government agency became contributors to the Panamanian Social Security system. More than 2,700 Panamanian employees have been incorporated into the plans and programs of the Social Security fund. In addition, the payment of the second portion of the 13th month wages to the Panamanian employees of the U.S. Government agency that operates in the Panama Canal areas. [sentence as published]

Another important achievement is the elimination of the wage base of the Panama area that was applied to employees hired after 1 October 1979 by U.S. Government agencies in Panama.

Regarding the increasing participation of Panamanians in the PCC, he said that in September 1988, Panamanians represented 86 percent of the PCC work force. There are 6,181 Panamanians in permanent positions and 143 in executive and management positions.

Referring to the ships' pilots, by the year 2000 Panamanians will represent 92 percent of the canal captains and pilots.

Maj Delgado emphasized the reversion of housing units, land, water, and public buildings. So far, 2,700 housing units have reverted to Panama, which represents 65 percent of all the housing that belonged to the extinct Panama Canal Co.

Concerning water, land, and public building reversions, he said 89,182 hectares reverted when the treaty went into force and another 635 hectares reverted from 1980 to 1988. A total of 638 buildings have also reverted.

The DEPAT director said in the 76 years since 1903, Panama had received only $69.9 million. Since 1979, Panama has received $635 million.

Maj Delgado said we must take the necessary precautions so Panama will receive the canal in the best operating condition to meet the challenge of the future.

Papers Comment

PA0809194488 [Editorial Report] Panama City Spanish-language newspapers LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, CRITICA, MATUTINO, and LA REPUBLICA in their 7 September issues publish a number of editorials, articles, and columns marking the 11th anniversary of the signing of the Panama Canal Treaties.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on page A-4 carries a 750-word editorial on the canal treaties' anniversary. The editorial summarizes the history of the signing of the treaties and critiques the Panamanian Government's effectiveness in directing Panamanian participation in canal activities over the last 11 years. The editorial notes: "We have been unable to create mechanisms and plans for obtaining maximum benefits from a resource for which several generations of Panamanians have struggled." The paper goes on to say that "on the contrary, disorganization and anarchy have prevailed in our administrative activities concerning the canal." The editorial adds that the United States is partly responsible for the problems Panama has faced in administering the canal, because the United States has not fulfilled many

of its obligations. The editorial concludes by saying that Panamanians hope this anniversary will bring common sense and understanding between Panama and the United States.

CRITICA on page 4 carries a 250-editorial marking the anniversary of the treaties. The paper criticizes the position the United States has maintained throughout history concerning the various canal treaties signed before 1977 and concludes by stating that Panama achieved its goal with the signing of the treaty in 1977 and that President Reagan's intention to bury the Torrijos-Carter treaties this September has failed.

The evening newspaper LA REPUBLICA on page 4 carries a 230-word editorial marking the treaties' anniversary. The paper stresses the fact that after 11 years the Panamanian people continue to defend and struggle for the canal. The editorial goes on to say that "11 years after the signing of the treaties, we are experiencing the worst crisis in our history, because one government is attacking us politically, economically, and psychologically in its determination to make the Panamanian people surrender." The paper concludes by saying that "true Panamanians, inspired by Torrijos' ideals, will continue the struggle until the last colonialist stake is removed from Panamanian territory."

Also on page 4, LA REPUBLICA carries a 450-word article by Mario Augusto Rodriguez on the anniversary. The article centers on the historical account of Panamanian efforts "to definitely and totally end foreign presence on Panamanian territory." On pages 1 and 6 the paper carries a 400-word article by Reinaldo Labastide summarizing statements by Panamanian Major Daniel Delgado, director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Directorate, at a ceremony held at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry to mark the 11th anniversary of the canal treaties.

MATUTINO on pages 2 and 6 carries a 260-word article by Roberto R. Rodriguez camparing the 1903 canal treaty with the 1977 treaties. The article concludes that after 11 years, Panama is an example of resistance and that Panama is convinced the United States will dismantle its bases in Panama by the year 2000.

MATUTINO on page 4 carries Ricardo Lince's 300-word "Let the People Judge" column criticizing the United States for not abiding by the canal treaties signed in 1977. The column says that traditional U.S. policy is to "deny and reject all it agrees upon to the detriment of international legal order."

Also on page 4, MATUTINO carries a 265-word article by Rogelio Ricord R. stating that the closer we get to the year 2000, the more the United States tries to find ways to abrogate the 1977 treaties. The article says that Panama had the treaties signed, that it resisted the economic aggression, and that it "will win the last battle, which is the expulsion of all U.S. citizens from Panamanian territory in the year 2000, and not 1 minute later."

Rognoni on Business' Role in Economic Recovery

PA1209021088 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Statement by Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] I believe that the economy can work despite the political situation. However, economic problems will persist as long as businessmen place politics ahead of business. If at this time businessmen would work toward an economic recovery, seeking ways to market their products, seeking lines of credit, negotiating with banks, and seeking an economic reactivation, I think that despite the political crisis, the economy could remain afloat. Proof of this is that there are countries whose political situations are alarming, yet their economies have flourished.

The businessman who acts like an opposition businessman, using his company as an instrument of the opposition, is harming himself. The businessman who is well aware of what is going on in his company and who seeks to solve his business problems, despite the political crisis, has managed to a great extent to overcome the current situation.

Survey: Economy Sustains Loss of 45 Percent

PA1009032188 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The economy has sustained a loss of 45.6 percent, according to information gathered by the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce's Center for Economic Studies. According to the second economic survey of 256 businesses, 66.8 percent of these businesses will be forced to end operations in 6 to 12 months if the political and economic crisis continues. Only 33 percent of the businesses express some assurance of being able to survive another year.

Many businesses are in an apparent process of orderly liquidation. They are selling their inventories to raise money, but many businesses are not replenishing their stock because they do not have the resources or finances to replace what they are selling. Depending on the type of business, many are using the money from sales to meet operating expenses and repay their debts.

However, Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni believes the principal cause of the deterioration of private business has been its interference in political activities.

[Begin Rognoni recording] The economy in general has shrunk by 20 percent and the private sector by 50 percent. However, this does not mean there will not be

an economic reactivation. It means that we have to work harder and the business community has to give up politics. We can be politicians in the framework of political parties and an election campaign, but we must manage our enterprises with a sense of private initiative and business sense. [end recording] [passage omitted].

PRD President Opposes Issuing Paper Currency

PA1409022088 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Carlos Duque, well-known businessman and Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] president, said during a meeting of his party's Political Commission Monday that Panama cannot issue paper currency because the country's economy is based on the service sector.

[Begin Duque recording] [Passage omitted] The government has received a number of proposals for resolving the country's crisis. There is much talk about issuing paper currency in Panama. We have considered the matter carefully. We completely disagree with this measure, because our economy is not strong enough to issue paper currency and is mainly based on the service sector. We cannot change our monetary system at present. Furthermore, the Panamanian Government has at no time planned to issue paper currency. The minister in charge of the Presidency has several times denied this report. [passage omitted]

Workers Group Reports Worsening Labor Conflicts

PA0909233888 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Sep 88 pp 1, 15

[Text] The Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, CTRP, has warned the government that the worsening of labor conflicts within private enterprise could aggravate the social crisis.

During a meeting with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and Chief of Staff Colonel Marcos Justines at the presidential palace, labor leader Ricardo Monterrey reported that employers have been imposing illegal measures on workers to reduce the work force and lower operating costs.

According to Monterrey, labor-management relations have deteriorated even further because of the employers, whose slowness has favored mutual consent arrangements in which workers, acting in good faith, lose their jobs.

Monterrey mentioned several businesses that have good profit margins but which argue that they must lay off workers, even if the businesses import merchandise with the consequent capital flight.

The labor leader, who was accompanied by members of the executive council of the CTRP labor unions, demanded that the government prevent reactions that could force measures to restore order.

Monterrey said his appeal to the government occurs at a time when the nation is entering its third and most dangerous phase: the social crisis.

He said the situation originated in a political disagreement, became an economic problem, and degenerated into a social crisis. Those who initiated the trouble now seek to transfer the responsibility to the government.

Authentic Liberal Party Elects Officers

PA1409034788 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Sep 88 pp 1, B-2

[Article by Claudio Herrera Jimenez]

[Text] The Authentic Liberal Party yesterday declared the need to maintain a democratic opposition and established as its postulates respect for the exercise of individual, social, and political rights in the Republic of Panama, just as the Authentic Panamenist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the National Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena], the People's Action Party [PAPO], and the National Civic Crusade did earlier.

The Authentic Liberals met yesterday in their constituent convention at the Fenix Theater in Chitre and elected Arnulfo Escalona Rios, lawyer and former legislator, president of the party. They also elected the rest of the party leadership, a political commission, and an honor tribunal.

In an emotional meeting with proclamations and shouts of "long live the opposition and the emerging party," the Authentic Liberals formally established their political organization after the Electoral Tribunal finally decided to recognize them as a party.

The constituent assembly of the Authentic Liberals was held after the Electoral Tribunal recognized they had achieved the necessary number of followers to become a political party.

Escalona Rios said in his speech, amid applause and slogans from his fellow party members and opposition leaders, that the work to register the party was hard and registry was not a giveaway. He added that the work took 5 years, in which time "we registered the Authentic Liberal Party three times."

At the start of the convention, there was 1 minute of silence in memory of former President Arnulfo Arias followed by the reading of telegrams of support and rejoicing for the victory obtained by Authentic Liberalism. Among the messages were those from Arias' widow,

Mireya Moscoso; former President Ricardo Arias Espinosa; and Carlos Rodriguez, vice presidential candidate for the democratic opposition in the 1984 elections.

Opposition leaders, including Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, referred to the significance and future impact of the activities of the Authentic Liberals.

The opposition parties expressed their views on yesterday's event and the country's present situation . Molirena leader Mario Galindo emphasized "unity is necessary," adding that the party will make every sacrifice and effort to return the country to democracy.

Authentic Panamenist Party Deputy Secretary General Guillermo Endara expressed great emotion for the achievement of the Authentic Liberals, emphasizing: "One of great satisfactions of Arnulfo Arias was to be able to count on the loyalty of the Authentic Liberals."

PAPO President Carlos Ivan Zuniga said a government based on popular desire, which should be the foundation of an authentically democratic government, "cannot at all be headed by Mr Delvalle." He recalled that the society of 1987 [as published] is participative, in which youths of both sexes have played leading roles.

The Civic Crusade's Carlos Abadia said Panama is pleased and unity is in the minds of all Panamanians. The Authentic Liberal Party's Jaime Jacome said "liberalism has always been procivilian."

The Authentic Liberal Party's declaration of principles was read and explained by Ezequiel Rodriguez, who outlined a platform looking to the year 2021 that establishes the social, political, and economic model "Panama 21."

The proposal, described as neoliberal with a social context, seeks to understand the nation's reality and involves public health, on which it suggests the elimination of the Integrated Health System (SIS) and promotes incentives for the establishment of private clinics in the country's interior.

The plan also includes true autonomy for the Social Security Fund and popular and free secular education with efforts directed toward the rural areas.

Escalona said Authentic Liberalism is based on three principles—democracy, justice, and freedom—and supports national understanding to overcome the approaching difficulties.

He said that of the political proposals presented in Panama, the only one realized has been the liberal one, and he summarized the objectives of liberalism in free and periodic elections, private property with a social function, and guarantee of individual rights with collective projections.

"The Authentic Liberal Party is opposed to the present regime, because it has been 20 years since the state of law disappeared in this country," he said.

"In this ceremony, he added, we reaffirmed our desire to continue struggling with a serious opposition, and he told the youth of his party that "the future is in your hands; have faith in your country and your party's leaders." [quotation marks as published]

Joaquin Fernando Franco was elected first vice president of the party; Carlos Bernard, second vice president; Jaime Ortega Gonzalez Revilla, third vice president; Julio Conte, fourth vice president; Jorge Valdes, secretary of minutes and correspondence; Agustin Cedeno, treasurer; Teodoro Franco, under secretary; and Jose Maria Herrera, president of the consultation board.

Argentina

Alfonsin, Economic Advisers Meet; Set Policy

PY1409024488 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Sep 88 pp 1, 20

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Raul Alfonsin met with government and business officials yesterday, deciding on a three-percent austral devaluation and a four-percent increase in public services rates to go into effect on October 1, it was formally announced in a press release.

Furthermore, business will be called on for a "new contribution," whereby they are to agree to maintain current prices until October 31.

Along with the price supervisory committee comprised of Argentine Chamber of Commerce President Carlos de la Vega, President Raul Alfonsin, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Public Works Minister Rodolfo Terragno, Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli, Finance Secretary Maric Brodersohn, Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea and Price Policy Secretary Carlos Bonvecchi met in Olivos presidential residence in order to "study the advances reached in anti-inflationary policy."

Lower interest rates, financial exchange rate stability and unadjusted public utility rates point to "a clear deceleration process of inflation."

In addition, the government announced that on September 20, more than 2,000 items will be removed from the Annex II import restriction list in line with fiscal reform plans. Also, the government will continue plans to reduce public spending and improve the tax system, hoping to rectify the fiscal budget and improve tax collection. However, salary adjustments were not covered in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Domestic Trade Secretary Adolfo Canitrot met with the metals, iron and steel, textile, chemical, paper, food and beverage sectors to discuss the new Annex II measures. He explained that the import taxes for the items that will be removed for Annex II will range from 5 to 40 percent, with some temporary exceptions of 50 percent.

President's Appeal on Amparo Decision Denied

PY1309035688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Today federal administrative Judge Oscar Garzon Flores turned down an appeal filed by President Raul Alfonsin to change his previous decision in connection with the amparo petition previously filed by Major Osvaldo Vercelloti. The judge maintained his decision that the major be reinstated as a student in the Superior War school while the pre-trial inquest proceeds. [passage omitted]

General Strike Said 'Partially Observed'

PY1409014588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1122 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Sep (NA)—Yesterday's general strike ordered by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] to protest "the harsh and indiscriminate repression" by the security forces against demonstrators at Plaza de Mayo last 9 September was only partially observed. The strike was observed almost totally at factories, but activity in the commercial and banking sectors was almost normal.

CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini said that 93.5 percent of workers observed the strike and added that the demonstration shows "that workers know very well [words indistinct]." He said government officials who came out against the 13th strike organized against the UCR government since they took office will have to "answer for their statements." Ubaldini also criticized "the intense psychological campaign" the executive branch has unleashed since 9 September's incidents.

The strike was observed by almost 100 percent of workers in the industrial belt of Greater Buenos Aires, but the commercial, financial, and banking sectors were only slightly affected by it.

In the transportation sector, 100 percent of trains and subways stopped running. The measure, however, affected only 40 percent of short-, middle-, and long-distance buses. Many buses were driven by their owners.

In the provinces, the strike also affected different sectors in different ways: Absenteeism in Cordoba and Santiago del Estero was high, while in Mendoza and Mar del Plata it was only minor.

Just as in the Federal Capital, the strike was widely felt in the industrial belts but had only a minor impact on other activities.

The central and provincial public administrations, and the schools, were practically closed on the day of the strike.

The strike occurred in a peaceful climate, except for a bomb that exploded in front of San Miguel de Tucuman's municipal building causing minor damages, and a few isolated attacks on buses in Greater Buenos Aires that had no serious consequences.

Last night, Ubaldini held a news conference to read a CGT communique evaluating the strike and the reasons for it.

Ubaldini said he is in no condition to identify those who began the disturbances at Plaza de Mayo on 9 September and added: "We are not the ones who have to investigate."

Ubaldini mentioned the initiative of a group of congressmen from differing political parties who proposed to form a commission to investigate the incidents. He also said the CGT intends to promote the questioning in Congress of Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

Regarding the television broadcasting of the incidents during the 9 September demonstration, Ubaldini said that "not a bit of it was the truth," and assured that "Workers are not responsible for those incidents."

Economy Minister Leaves for Washington
PY1409013388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0114 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Sep (DYN)—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille departed tonight at 2215 for Washington where he will hold foreign debt negotiations.

Sourrouille was accompanied by Central Bank President Jose Machinea and by Central Bank Director Daniel Marx. Neither of them made remarks to the press at Ezeiza International Airport.

Enriched Uranium Export to Algeria Authorized
PY1309192888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1439 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Sep (TELAM)—According to a report released today at Government House, the Executive Branch has authorized the export of 80 kg of enriched uranium to Algeria for use in a research and training reactor.

The uranium will be exported through the Applied Research Institute (INVAP), and the material exported will be the 235 isotope of uranium that has been enriched to approximately 19.7 percent. The material will be exported as MTR [materials testing reactor] fuel.

The CNEA has been authorized to sell INVAP the 80 kg of enriched uranium which will be used to produce 46 fuel rods for the research and training reactor. Measures will be taken to make sure that the material exported will be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The income from the sale of the enriched uranium will be allocated to the CNEA as a specific fund to be included in the 1988 budget.

The (?measure) was adopted through Decree No 1179, which was signed by President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Finance Ministry Secretary Mario Brodersohn.

Bomb Explodes in Concepcion, Tucuman Province
PY1309113688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1059 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 13 Sep (TELAM)—A medium-sized bomb exploded early this morning in the judicial complex of Concepcion, located 70 km south of this capital.

The explosion occurred at 0120 [0320 GMT]. While damages have been reported, there are no reports of injuries.

The Provincial Police Explosives Brigade experts continued this morning with their investigation.

Bolivia

Government Reasserts Position on Sea Outlet
PY1309154588 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Gumucio Granier stated that Bolivia is not willing to negotiate with Chile if the Chilean Government does not show interest in resolving Bolivia's landlock problem by offering a sovereign and useful outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

He added that Bolivia upholds a well known position on this issue and that position was clearly explained during the last bilateral negotiations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Gumucio answered a recent statement made by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet who said the Chilean Government is willing to seek an understanding with Bolivia to overcome the century old issue.

Gumucio said that no negotiations can be carried out with Chile if the Chilean Government does not show before the international community its willingness to grant to Bolivia a sovereign and useful sea outlet.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal recently stated that bilateral negotiations can resume whenever there is good faith in the negotiations and a definitive solution to the problem can be found.

Meanwhile the Foreign Ministry is drafting the documents that will be submitted during the upcoming OAS and UN assemblies where Bolivia intends to raise the issue because it poses a threat to peace in the region.

The Nonaligned foreign ministers conference decided to support Bolivia's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the sea outlet issue. Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal sent to the Bolivian Foreign Ministry the resolutions that were approved at the Nonaligned meeting, which expressed solidarity with the Bolivian cause. [passage omitted]

Station Commentary Criticizes Pinochet

PY1309202988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Unattributed station commentary: "Democracy Used as a Shield for Power"]

[Text] In today's world democracy is based on man's right to live in freedom and to achieve a just and developed society. However, there are people or groups that intend to use the democratic system as a shield for power for their own selfish interests. It is deplorable that the democratic system is used to try to deceive peoples and countries.

After implementing a policy against all democratic principles, Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet has recently stated that his government is willing to seek solutions to the century old problem involving Bolivia's landlocked problem.

This is offensive to Bolivia particularly because a few months ago, with the stroke of a pen, Pinochet canceled bilateral negotiations under way in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Now the man who feigns to be a democrat only to gain supporters for a plebiscite to be held in October wants to deceive not only the Chilean people but the entire international community by expressing support for a negotiated solution.

During Pinochet's administration, Chile's position on this issue has remained unchanged. At the end of the last unsuccessful bilateral negotiations, Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal stated that the dictator is afraid of the results of the negotiations and of the truth.

Bolivia has always maintained a clear position on the subject. If Pinochet's intentions are sincere, he does not need any publicity. He merely needs to instruct Chilean Foreign Ministry officials to answer positively to the Bolivian proposals.

Gen Pinochet's position does not fool anyone. By feigning to be magnanimous in seeking solutions to international issues he will not be able to win over the Yes-votes he is seeking to remain in power. We are aware that his candidacy lacks any consensus support and that his words disguise the evilness that has characterized his long years in government.

Bolivia is claiming a sovereign and useful sea outlet to the Pacific Ocean, but will take no part in Pinochet's farce. Bolivia (?believes) that its landlocked situation will sooner or later demand a responsible answer from a Chilean Government that has the support of the people.

Armed Forces Sent to Huanuni Mine Sector

PY1309212588 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Asked about the Huanuni mine workers' attitudes in view of the present labor conflict, Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran said he intends to uphold the established laws.

The interior minister also rejected the possibility of an Armed Forces intervention in the Huanuni mining district. He said rumors in this regard are mere press speculation.

Juan Carlos Duran added there is complete freedom in all national mining districts. He said Bolivian police forces have been sent to Oruro to safeguard the people and not to cause unrest. He said: The only ones who are nervous about the presence of the police guarding the site are the people who steal minerals.

Thus the interior minister answered Huanuni workers and labor leaders who said the police that have been sent to Oruro made union leaders and workers nervous because they created a tense atmosphere in the area.

Duran reasserted that the government will uphold the law in Huanuni and that this is his last word on the issue.

[Begin recording] [Duran] There is absolutely no news regarding the situation in Huanuni or the protection that police and Armed Forces are granting to COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] installations. There is complete freedom in the area, and mine workers are absolutely free.

[Unidentified reporter] But police forces that have been sent to the site are making people nervous.

[Duran] The only ones who are nervous are the people who steal minerals. But the population should not feel nervous. On the contrary, they should feel protected by the presence of the police.

[Reporter] What is the latest decision the Interior Ministry has made regarding the Huanuni issue?

[Duran] To uphold the law. [end recording]

Leftist Parties Form 'United Left' Front

PY1209143088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0015 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] La Paz, 10 Sep (EFE)—Today four of Bolivia's leftist parties formed a front which they call the United Left (IU). The IU was formed with an eye to the upcoming general elections scheduled for May 1989.

The Movement for a Free Bolivia [Movimiento Bolivia Libre] (MBL), the Socialist Party One, the Patriotic Alliance [Alianza Patriotica] (AP), and the Group of Bolivian Independents for Self Government [Grupo de Independientes Autogestionarios de Bolivia], make up the new front.

MBL's Antonio Aranibar and AP's Walter Delgadillo have been named the front's presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively, according to an announcement made during a ceremony in which the front was made known to the public.

According to a document, the IU seeks "to draft a political and popular instrument that will serve as the basic reference point for the Bolivian people in their daily struggles." The IU promotes a program "for a transition to socialism that will stem from the current democratic, popular, anti-oligarchic, and anti-imperialistic tasks."

The union of the Bolivian left was consolidated after several weeks of discussions, according to the leaders of the parties that make up the front.

The next general elections in Bolivia will be the third since the country returned to democracy, which was interrupted on 17 July 1980 by the coup carried out by Luis Garcia Meza.

Brazil

President Seeks Increased Trade With Soviets

PY1309134388 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Sep 88 p 7

[Text] Brasilia—A number of agreements will be signed during President Jose Sarney's visit to the Soviet Union from 17 through 21 October. The agreements will establish the rules for increased bilateral economic relations. A Brazilian mission will arrive in Moscow tomorrow to work on the agreements.

The mission, comprising representatives of the government and 16 public and private enterprises, will participate in the 11th Joint Meeting for Brazilian-Soviet Union Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation.

During the meeting, experts from the two governments, with the help of the company representatives, will define the criteria for three agreements.

The first agreement will entail the exchange of manufactured products, machinery, and equipment; the second agreement will concern relations between the Brazilian Foreign Trade Department (CACEX) and the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank; and the third agreement will focus on preventing double taxation of products traded between the two countries.

The Brazilian representatives to the joint commission will convey to their Soviet counterparts their willingness to increase the bilateral trade with the participation of the private sector; the meeting will be attended by business representatives of enterprises such as Cacique [expansion unknown], Andrade Gutierrez, Norberto Odebrecht, and Interbras [Petrobras International Trade, Inc].

According to Itamaraty, President Sarney will convey to the Soviets the Brazilian political will to increase bilateral trade and to strive for "better balanced" trade. Brazil had a trade surplus with the Soviet Union in 1987, exporting $380 million and importing $70 million. The Brazilian Government "Will make a great effort to increase the purchase of Soviet products," according to a Brazilian diplomat.

The main concern is that the Soviet Union is undergoing a process of economic reorganization. This reorganization means a new emphasis for all cooperation agreements signed between the two countries. For instance, new lines of financing will be created for various categories through an agreement between banks. At the present, each product is negotiated separately.

Naval Maneuvers With Argentina Begin 12 Sep

PY1209134488 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Joint Brazilian-Argentine naval maneuvers are to begin today in the South Atlantic.

Within the framework of the "Operation Brotherhood" [Operacion Fraterno] exercises, a total of eight vessels and two submarines will take part in electronic and submarine war exercises. Air defense and conventional weapons drills will also be carried out.

Chile

Pinochet Campaigns in Districts, Vehicle Stoned

PY1209171188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The president of the Republic has called on the citizenry to struggle in favor of the Yes-vote in the upcoming plebiscite to demonstrate that things are done for the benefit of the country. Pinochet said this to the people of Cerro Navia District who expressed their support for his government, on a new anniversary of our national liberation.

President Pinochet also briefly visited Conchali District and greeted the people at the Conchali soccer stadium. He called on the people to reflect the importance of the Yes-vote in the 5 October plebiscite.

In both districts the people expressed their appreciation for the president.

[Begin Pinochet recording] The date 5 October is near. We must struggle to demonstrate to the rest of the people that we are right, that we are doing things for the benefit of the country and that we are not behaving like some politicians. For example, one of them was almost named ambassador to the USSR. He can't be anything but a Communist. There is another politician who has been deceived one, two times, and now he wants to pretend [words indistinct]. How can we believe in him?

I think that with our faith in Chile we will win, but we must make an effort. We must struggle to obtain votes, we have a common front to win a new Chile with a future. Thank you. [end recording]

Amid neverending applauses, the president spoke about a political commercial made by the No-vote opposition which shows an elderly woman trying to buy bread and tea. He said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] We are in face of a fictional campaign because the No-vote is like a fiction movie. For example, they show an elderly woman who goes to buy bread and asks for tea [words indistinct]. She then says she only has enough money to buy only one piece of bread.

I can tell you that in times of the Popular Unity that woman could have gone to the store with her bag full of money, but there would not have been any bread or anything else to sell at the time. [applause] [end recording]

The Cerro Navia and Conchali District people expressed their appreciation for the president's government. Some groups, however caused some damage as the presidential motorcade passed by Mapocho Avenue in Cerro Navia District.

No-vote supporters stoned the motorcade and erected barricades on the streets forcing Carabineros to disperse them.

President Says Some Press Laws 'Too Severe'

PY1309034988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpts] President Pinochet has said that true freedom of expression and the rights of citizens depend on the understanding of ethical values above and beyond ideological beliefs. This statement was made by the president during the ceremony commemorating the 161th anniversary of EL MERCURIO of Valparaiso. [passage omitted]

[Begin Pinochet recording] In order to create the appropriate climate for the consolidation of democracy, sometimes we considered it indispensable to issue some transitory measures, perhaps too severe, against publications that endanger the security of the country, promote violence, or slander and insult authorities or institutions. This government supports the development of serious and responsible journalism. This type of journalism will be the basis of real and undeniable freedom of the press in the country.

I have to recall here that government I am honored to preside over has fully respected the Constitution and has taken steps to support the freedom of the press. [end recording] [passage omitted]

National Party Pledges To Support Yes-Vote

PY1209160188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The political spectrum that supports the Yes-vote in the plebiscite and the government's plans for the future is comprised of eight, legal political parties, a strong movement, and a large number of independents organized in thousands of commands and committees.

We can now add the democratic militants of the National Party to the list of parties supporting the Yes-vote. These parties include: the National Vanguard Party, the National Renewal Party, the Radical Democratic Party, the Party of the South, the Chilean Liberal Democratic Party, PADENA [National Democratic Party], the Chilean Social Democracy Party, UDI [Independent Democratic Union] Movement for the Yes-vote, and the independents.

After 3 months of difficult internal debates, which concluded with the expulsion of party dissidents, the National Party held a national council meeting to decide the party's position regarding the plebiscite. The National Party has decided by a large majority to vote yes.

The electoral service notary said that the Yes-vote prevailed 125 to 25. Silvia Alessandri voted for the freedom for each person to vote independently.

Shouts in favor of General Pinochet's candidacy were heard in the old Fernandez Concha Club after the vote count. With the decision to support the Yes-vote, one of the most divisive chapters of the National Party history came to a close.

National Party President Patricio Phillips said that he plans to recover the time lost in party infighting and that the party will start campaigning immediately. He said he will hold a news conference soon to announce his party's position. Party leaders will immediately start campaigning in the interior to try to obtain more followers, especially among the undecided.

The National Party has always been for Chile, and it never would have mingled with Communists or Socialists, Patricio Phillips said. We have purified the party, he reiterated, and this gives us more focus in our work in favor of the positive future of the country.

The National Party campaign will not last long due to the fact that the plebiscite will be held soon. However, the campaign will work directly on its main concerns: to obtain the votes of the undecided voters who believe in the opposition's lies. Phillips said his party will explain its political program in favor of the Yes-vote on television soon.

Numerous Undecided Voters in Fifth Region

PY1309124588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] According to a poll conducted by the Scopus company, the largest amount of undecided voters is concentrated in the Fifth Region, around Valparaiso. In this region 20.8 percent of the voters are still undecided.

The company states that the Yes-vote is ahead with 41.6 percent of the votes. The No-vote is favored by 37.6 percent of the voters.

The highest percentage of Yes-votes are concetrated in Los Andes Province with 53.5 percent of the voters, against 34.8 percent for the No-vote and in San Felipe Province where 58.8 percent favor the Yes-vote and 39.7 percent the No-vote.

In Quillota Province 51 percent of the voters will vote yes while 24.7 percent will vote no.

In the urban section of Valparaiso, Vina de Mar and San Antonio, the No-vote has a slight advantage over the Yes-vote. In the other provinces 41.6 percent of the people will vote yes and 37.6 will vote no.

According to Scopus, 20.8 percent of the voters are still undecided in the Fifth Region and it is thought that they will probably decide to vote yes, thus outnumbering the No-vote trend of Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, and San Antonio.

Television Council Suspends No-Vote Broadcast

PY1309145188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The National Council for Television Broadcasting [Consejo Nacional de Television] suspended last night's No-vote television broadcast because it did not meet current regulations.

This measure was unanimously agreed to by the National Council for Television Broadcasting, which decided that the No-vote broadcast violated instructions expressly included in the appropriate laws.

The National Council for Television Broadcasting made it clear that this suspension will not affect the rest of the No-vote programs.

The suspended program included remarks by Judge Rene Garcia Villegas, who gave an account of some cases involving illegal methods [apremios].

Denis Lustig, the executive secretary of the National Council for Television Broadcasting, said that the No-vote program was rejected because it included unauthorized testimonies.

The No-vote Command declared that the censured No-vote program included an interview with Judge Rene Garcia Villegas that had been broadcast abroad.

It is noteworthy to say that the so-called unauthorized testimonies were not disapproved by the National Council for Television Broadcasting but by the person interviewed. In other words, Judge Rene Garcia Villegas did not authorize the broadcast.

'Spot' Shown To Reporters

PY1309222788 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, you will hear Judge Rene Garcia Villegas' testimony involving the National Intelligence Center, CNI, and torture. These are the words that millions of Chileans were not able to hear last night because the government censured the political spot of the National Command for the No-vote. We apologize for the technical problems; our recording was obtained from a television set.

[Begin Garcia recording] There are over 50 cases like this. All involving torture by the CNI [word indistinct]. People were detained without due process of law by CNI agents. They were tortured by CNI agents in CNI premises. Some people have gone through endless sessions of torture that lasted a full day and continued into the night until 3 or 4 in the morning. In one case, after the session the tortured man was thrown into a broken bed in jail like a piece of useless furniture. He was allowed to rest for a few hours before starting a new session. [end recording]

The censured part of the Command for the No-vote spot was shown to dozens of national and foreign journalists this afternoon. Ricardo Lagos, member of the Council of Presidents of the political parties comprising the No-vote front, said what happened was not acceptable.

[Begin Lagos recording] Yesterday, Augusto Pinochet Ugarte spoke about freedom of the press. At night the Chilean people realized what Pinochet's freedom of the press meant. The No-vote front program was censured in Chile. This situation is not acceptable because it violates the essential basis on which the plebiscite was called. The National Television Council, the organization that covers for the dictatorship, censured the program. Pinochet changed the suit he used to speak about freedom of the press in Valparaiso for the suit of a dictator at 1100. [end recording]

Ricardo Lagos said Judge Garcia Villegas' testimony has been shown in around 16 countries worldwide. Lagos then asked: What right does the government have to forbid the Chilean people from judging for themselves the cases of torture at the CNI in the last 15 years of military government? [passage omitted]

Yes-Vote Spot Canceled

PY1309191588 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] This evening the government will not use their 15-minute television space for which the Yes-vote supporters are entitled under the electoral legislation, Minister Secretary General of Government Orlando Poblete has announced. Poblete added that the decision was made by President Augusto Pinochet, in order to ensure equality in the public debate and in order to show the government's and the president's aspiration for justice.

The Command for the No-vote last night decided to suspend the transmission of its television spot [preceding word in English] after it was censored by the National Television Council.

Poblete said that the decision by the government was not made in disregard for the powers of the National Television Council or because of its decisions made yesterday.

[Begin Poblete recording] The National Television Council has exercised its legal powers. Without precluding such powers, and the council's jurisdiction, the president made the decision that I have announced, which is based on justice and equality, in connection with the debate before the plebiscite. [end recording]

Asked whether the government will continue to use unauthorized interviews like that of Christian Democratic leader Patricio Aylwin for its propaganda campaign, Poblete said that the decision by the president is valid only in this case, and that he had no information on the use of the television time that each side will have in the future. He recalled that there are regulations on the subject. Poblete said that television spots are not subject to prior censorship, and that the actions by the National Television Council do not imply prior censorship.

No-voters on Cancellation

PY1409032688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] In face of the announcement made by the minister secretary general of government reporting the government's unusual decision to not air—for reasons of equality—the Yes-vote video today, the Command of the No-vote declares the following:

Violations of human rights cannot be compensated, not even for reasons of equality, and in this case, we mean violation of freedom of expression, and to the right of information. If the government's real objective is to repair the damage that was done, it should allow the censored No-vote spot to be aired.

The regime is scared that the truth will become known; in this case, it is afraid that the reality of torture will be made known. The No-vote spot showed a Chilean judge who, with a singular ethical and professional dedication, legally investigated torture in our country, and arrived at irrefutable conclusions.

Under normal circumstances the facts shown in the tape should conclusively demonstrate that Chile lives in an abnormal situation stemming from a dictatorship. Those of us affected by the National Television Council decision could and should resort to the courts to demand respect for our constitutional guarantees and a reparation for the damage that was done.

However, since the Supreme Court of Justice has already stated its position on a subject that falls within the jurisdiction of a lower court, we have decided not to resort to our legal rights, in face of the lack of fairness of the courts. We are defenseless and we are victims of the arbitrariness of the administrative authority.

Finally, the No-vote Command expresses its deep conviction that the No-vote will win by a large margin, thus opening the way for a national reencounter, with democracy and with freedom.

Aylwin Says Regime 'Responsible' for Violence

PY1309185788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0433 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 12 Sep (EFE)—Christian Democratic Party President Patricio Aylwin, the spokesman for the 16 opposition parties which make up the "Command for the No-vote," today rejected the use of violence and charged that those who promote it "are accomplices of the dictatorship."

Aylwin, however, said that the regime is mainly responsible for the violence in Chile, although "We believe that this does not justify the use of violence against the regime. We also believe that those who promote this violence are accomplices of the regime."

Aylwin implicitly alluded to the disturbances and acts of vandalism which occurred after opposition rallies, and to the attack with stones and sticks against General Pinochet's entourage when when he visited the slum of Cerro Navia in northwestern Santiago on 11 September.

Aylwin said that "The vast majority of Chileans want no more dictatorships and fear. They want more freedom and social justice," adding that "Pinochet is the main obstacle for the reconciliation of the Chilean people."

During the interview, Aylwin said that if the Yes-vote, which is supported by the government, wins in the 5 October plebiscite he will recognize the decision of the people. On this date, Chileans will decide whether General Pinochet remains in power for another 8 years.

He added, however, that if the Yes-vote succeeds, he will not feel compelled to make the traditional visit to the winner of the election because "For 15 years Pinochet has committed all types of offenses, has shown hate, and has treated opposition politicians as shameless people and traitors."

Aylwin said that the victory of the Yes-vote is political fiction because he is sure that the No-vote will win the plebiscite.

No-Vote Command Activities Increasing

Mock Plebiscite Held

PY1309015988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 11 Sep (EFE)—The Command for the No-vote, made up of opposition parties who are against General Augusto Pinochet's regime, organized a mock plebiscite in which 100,000 people voted today.

Carlos Montes, coordinator of the Command for the No-vote in the Metropolitan Region, said that the mock plebiscite was successful "in teaching thousands of people how to vote and in creating an atmosphere of civic duty, in which the voters will make closer contact with the politicians."

He said that musical group and artists gave shows while the mock plebiscite was being held in the voting stations at 49 of the 51 Santiago Districts.

The Command for the No-vote mock plebescite had 681 voting stations, which remained open from 1000 to 1600. They were set up on the sidewalk and were presided over by a president and other representatives, as they will be in the 5 October plebiscite. [passage omitted]

Carlos Montes said that one of the obstacles discovered during the mock plebiscite was "that the population was afraid to come near the voting stations."

He said that the mock plebiscite will serve to "assure the people that their vote will really be secret" on the day of the plebiscite. He added: "We had the chance to demonstrate through examples that it is impossible to tell how each person voted." [passage omitted]

"This situation demonstrates that it is necessary to stress further the secrecy of the vote," Carlos Montes said.

The Command for the No-vote was also able to test "in place" the communications system it will use to report immediately on the vote tally of each voting station.

According to Montes, the communications system worked "reasonably well." This means that "On 5 October the system will operate efficiently." [passage omitted]

Montes said that in the mock plebiscite today 95 percent of the participants voted no and 5 percent voted yes.

Vote Count System Planned

PY1209192288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0946 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Sep (EFE)—The Chilean opposition will mount a parallel vote counting system for the upcoming presidential plebiscite. Thus, the opposition will be able to compare its results with the unofficial [as received] results that the Interior Ministry will release through television broadcasts.

If he wins the plebiscite, Pinochet, 72, will be president of Chile until 1997. If Pinochet loses, on the other hand, general elections will be held in 1989.

The 22,000 voting stations will open at 0800 [1200 GMT] and the voting will last for 9 hours but if there are people still waiting to cast their vote at closing time, the schedule will be extended to 2400. A total of 7.2 million people have registered on vote.

The National Comand for the No-vote, which includes 16 political parties that oppose Pinochet's candidacy, stresses that it will have poll watchers in practically all the voting stations throughout the country. This command includes centrist and moderate leftist parties.

The only places the opposition will not have poll watchers is in remote places where only military garrisons are located.

The opposition's 40,000 poll watchers can carry out their activities in any electoral district and they will only need the credentials provided by the No-vote Command. In other words, a poll watcher can be on watch in any electoral district other than their own.

According to Gonzalo Martner, who is in charge of the command's vote counting system, there will be an average of two opposition poll watchers at each polling station.

Martner has emphasized to foreign correspondents that as of 2100 (0100 GMT on 6 October) on 5 October the opposition will be able to provide global results of approximately 500,000 votes.

The results that will be provided by the opposition will be followed on a very large screen that will be installed in the Blas Canas Catholic School, located in downtwon Santiago, or through direct computer access to the command's computer complex.

The command stresses that it will obtain an overall advantage of approximately 800,000 votes due to its ample predominance in the urban areas, although the results will be more even in the rural areas.

The official results will be released the 6th day after the voting has taken place, and after a recount. The Interior Ministry will provide unofficial results after the voting stations have closed.

According to Martner, the Army will guard the ballot boxes from the moment of the count until the results are made known over television.

The locations of where the voting stations will be installed will not be made known until the middle of this month.

Martner stated that the Army wants the polling stations well dispersed in order to prevent crowds.

The opposition's major concern regarding the voting lies in the possibility that there may be persons who have two sets of identity cards, especially the members of the security services. These persons will be able to vote twice, thereby increasing by 15,000 the number of persons allowed to vote.

According to opposition experts, it will not be "theoretically possible" for the Interior Ministry to carry out an "invisible fraud" with its computer system.

Rejects Rhetorical Calls

PY1209222688 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0126 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Sep (EFE)—The "Command for the No-vote," which is made up of 16 democratic opposition parties, today refused to believe the call made by President, General Augusto Pinochet.

Pinochet has called upon all Chileans, including those of the opposition, to make a serious and constructive contribution to the country's development, in the "new protected democracy" his regime advocates.

Christian Democratic Party leader Genaro Arriagada, secretary general of the "Command for the No-vote," stated tonight in a news conference: "We do not believe in the rhetorical calls made by Pinochet."

According to the opposition, the general "must be judged in light of the 15 years of merciless use of power and his persistent reluctance to hold a dialogue," Arriagada added during the news conference held in Santiago.

Pinochet's call to the opposition forces was included in a 1-and-1/2-hour speech with which the military regime this morning commemorated its 15 years in power.

On 11 September 1973, a coup d'etat ousted the Popular Unity Government, headed by Socialist Salvador Allende, bringing to power the current regime chaired by Gen Pinochet.

Pinochet is now running as the only candidate in the plebiscite to be held on 5 October, a day when the Chileans will decide whether he will remain for another 8-year period in the government.

Commenting on the presidential speech, Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez stressed the importance of "Pinochet's new call to the democratic sectors, including those of the opposition."

Fernandez stated: "We admit that they have a different agenda from ours, and we are willing to talk with them, to exchange ideas."

After stating that "We do not believe" in the general's call, Arriagada, spokesman for the 16 opposition parties, stated that Pinochet must be judged in light of the 15 years of "merciless use of power."

Arriagada stated: "Rhetorical calls made at the last moment deserve no credibility in the country."

Arriagada added that Pinochet wanted to use his speech to assess the 15 years of government, and at the same time, to call for support for his bid for a new term that would allow him to complete 24 years in power.

"His analysis, regardless of its length, was poor. Very few governments in our history have been more inefficient," he added.

He said that only the economic achievements have reached a level that can be called—not a success, but "reasonably satisfactory."

However, he added, in the other regards the analysis is "simply distressing," and he cited human rights, international relations, civic liberties, and the distribution of revenues.

"If Gen Pinochet today wanted to make an analysis of his administration, our opinion is that it would contain no legal, political, economic, or moral justification for his absurd pretension to extend his government to 24 years of uninterrupted personal power," Arriagada stated.

The spokesman of the opposition parties concluded by calling upon all Chileans "to punish with their vote on 5 October (the date of the plebiscite) a lengthy and ineffective exercise of power."

Electoral Service Cancels Parties Registrations

PY1209215488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The national electoral service has canceled the registration of the National Democratic Party, PADENA. When PADENA registered in December 1987, it was presided over by Wolfgang Prieur, who died recently.

The cancellation of PADENA has been published in today's official gazette, after a resolution of the electoral service.

The electoral service decided to cancel the registration of PADENA because it has not complied with article six of the political parties law.

Notary Arturo Carvajal Escobar, from the seventh notary office of Santiago, was called in to confirm the cancellation of PADENA's right to register.

PADENA was a member of the 16-member group of opposition parties that support the No-vote. Their spokesman is PDC [Christian Democratic Party] President Patricio Aylwin.

The Humanist Party registration was also canceled officially today because the party had not complied with the political parties law. One of the leaders of this party is the colorful, strange, and odd singer known as Florcita Motuda.

The registration of the Humanist Party has been officially canceled by Resolution No 5,106 of the electoral service, published in the official gazette today.

The official gazette states: The political parties register states that on 5 March 1988, the Humanist Party was registered in the 13 regions of Chile. This party should have organized itself according to legal regulations within a 6-month term, starting on the day of registration. The Humanist Party should have registered its executive board, regional councils, general council, and supreme court before 5 September 1988.

A copy of this resolution was sent to Jose Tomas Saenz Saavedra, president of the Humanist Party. However, Saenz has resigned his post and has been replaced by another leader.

Journalist Forbidden To Leave Country

PY1409033988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0247 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 13 Sep (EFE)—President Augusto Pinochet's regime has forbidden journalist Monica Gonzalez from leaving the country as she was heading to the United States to receive an award from Harvard University.

Gonzalez, who works for the weekly magazine ANALISIS and is a correspondent for the Spanish magazine TIEMPO, has four impending trials but no order "to stay in the country" has been issued against her in any of these cases.

Gonzalez reported that after passing by the migration control in the airport, as she was about to board her plane, she was stopped by Santiago international airport security officials who told her—without giving any reason—that she is not allowed to leave the country.

Monica Gonzalez, who traveled to Buenos Aires at the end of June, said she did not know why she was not allowed to travel to the United States.

The Chilean journalist was to receive the "Luis M. Lyon" award from the Neiman Foundation of Harvard University (Massachusetts), "for her courage in writing objectively and honest reports despite the regime's efforts to silence her." [passage omitted]

FPMR Claims Responsibility for Car Bomb

PY1209160288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1503 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 12 Sep (EFE)—The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] has claimed responsibility, by way of a phone call to the newspaper EL MERCURIO, for placing a car bomb in the downtown area of Santiago. The bomb was deactivated by police on 11 September.

According to the newspaper, the person who called said he was the FPMR's spokesman and that his name was Jorge Salas. He stated that "This is to demonstrate that the dictator is very vulnerable."

The FPMR spokesman added that "We are prepared to carry out another action against the government."

The telephone call was made on 11 September, 2 days after the FPMR announced that it had established a truce until the 5 October plebiscite.

The car bomb, which was placed in a street neighboring the Diego Portales Building, the seat of government, was programmed to explode on 11 September when President Augusto Pinochet was scheduled to speak to his supporters, who gathered on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the coup that placed Pinochet in power. [passage omitted]

Attack Plans Uncovered

PY1209143488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Report from Valparaiso by reporter Peter Pugli]

[Text] Cerro Alegre District Carabineros have uncovered secret plans for an attack on the Costa factory of Santa Elena District. The plans were found inside a suitcase Carabineros confiscated along with weapons, explosives, and ammunition in a house in (Cerro Cartel).

The plans found by Carabineros have full details of the Costa factory, the location and rounds of the watchmen, and the specifications of the security area. The plan has full details of the factory's principal areas, including all its boilers, water pumps, fuel deposits, ovens, administrative areas, manufacturing locations, and electric power plant.

Carabineros also found a plan to destroy the Laguna Verde-Miraflores power line which could have caused a major power outage in Valparaiso and part of Vina del Mar.

[Begin Carabineros Special unit chief recording] The date of the attack was pending. We got an idea of this Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] group's organization from the war names of its members. In this case there was an attack group and an explosives group. The attack group was made up of Eduardo and Claudio, while the explosives group was made up of Marcelo and Mauricio. [end recording]

According to the chief ot the Carabineros special unit, the FPMR group was organized in the following manner:

[Begin Carabineros Special Unit chief recording] There was a group chief called Eduardo, and the members were Claudio, Marcelo, and Mauricio. They had specific instructions. [end recording]

This is the manner in which these antisocial people who support the No-vote behave. They do not mind if innocent people and fellow countrymen of any age die.

23 Arrested During Disturbances in Concepcion

PY1309033888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Extremist opposition demonstrators created disorder, obstructed traffic, and threw rocks at private cars and buses in Concepcion, while the community as a whole was still celebrating the anniversary of national liberation. Carabineros arrested 23 individuals.

The most violent incidents took place in the neighborhood of Chiguayante, in lower Pedro de Valdivia, and on Errazuriz Street.

Here demonstrators erected barricades, burned tires, and threw rocks at passing vehicles. Carabineros arrested 10 extremists in the La Leonora area of Chiguayante.

Three demonstrators were arrested for disorderly conduct and five for damaging public and private property in the Lota neighborhood. Five more were arrested for disorderly conduct in Lagunillas, Coronel District.

Those individuals arrested for disorderly conduct were placed at the disposal of the local police court. Those arrested for damaging private and public property were placed at the disposal of the criminal courts.

In Barrio Norte, a man and a woman boarded a bus and after traveling a short distance stopped the bus, and with a gun, forced all passengers and the driver out and burned the bus with an incendiary bomb.

There were also reports of violence in Talcahuano and Penco, but no one was arrested or injured in these places.

Terrorists Arrested by Investigative Police

PY1309160088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Investigations have proved that the two individuals who were captured by the investigative police in connection with grenade attacks perpetrated last Friday against a canning factory and an investigative police patrol car are very dangerous terrorists specialized in weapons and explosives.

The police have identified the detainees as Carlos Francisco Morales Sepulveda, 23, alias Oscar, a MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] member; and Juan Francisco Rojas Rojas, 45, alias Cristian who is a Socialist.

Last Friday at about 1530, Morales Sepulveda and Rojas Rojas attcked the Ferrer y Compania canning factory, located at 1625 Padre Damian Street in Cerro Navia District.

Detainees Placed at Disposal of Military Courts

PY1309153888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Report by Miguel Angel Stuart from Valparaiso]

[Excerpt] Of a total of 137 detainees involved in serious incidents last Sunday, after participating in a festival at the Santa Ines cemetery in Vina del Mar, 10 have been placed at the disposal of the military courts.

This information was released by police sources, who added that after the appropriate registration in the police records, the other 127 detainees were released and have been summoned to appear at local courts this week. [passage omitted]

Extremist Arrested, Detained in Antofagasta

PY1309190988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Relay by Aldo Soto from Antofagasta]

[Text] Patricio Alfonso Meza Lagos, 20, an extremist detained in downtown Antofagasta, is being held incommunicado at the Antofagasta preventive custody center and has been placed at the disposal of the 1st Criminal Court in Antofagasta.

The Carabineros report states that according to the information that Meza Lagos supplied to the authorities, a man called Oscar, who is a Communist Youth member, on 3 September, asked Meza Lagos to buy 0.5 kg of sulphur, 2 kg of saltpeter, 0.5 kg of coal, and a roll of fuse from the local stores.

Carabineros officers became suspicious of a bag he was carrying, and detained Meza Lagos. The Carabineros have said that powerful explosives could have been made with the items contained inside the bag.

The police are trying to find the man called Oscar in order to discover the possible connection of these two people.

Two Extremists Arrested; Weapons Seized

PY1309192588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] During a 'Lightning Operation', investigative police officers detained two extremists who had a U.S.-made, 22 caliber high standard [preceding two words in English] pistol and a 22 caliber (Peisper) brand revolver.

The 'Lightning Operation' was conducted in southern Santiago. The detainees were caught at the intersection of Coihaique and Luis Infante Cerda Streets.

The extremists were identified as Enrique Sobarzo Morales, 21; and Rodrigo Marcelo Yanez Bravo, 19.

Police officer Juan Barrera added that the detainees carried three triangular black silk handkerchiefs which they used during their crimes to cover their faces.

[Begin Barrera recording] It is appropriate to note that 69, 22 caliber bullets and 40 5.57 caliber pistols were found in the extremists' homes. Subversive propaganda, drawings, and other items were also found. Asked about these materials and the weapons, Sobarzo Morales and Yanez Bravo said that another extremist gave them all the materials and the weapons. [End recording]

The extremists, the weapons, and the items seized from their homes have been placed at the disposal of the 4th Military Prosecutor's office.

Colombia

ELN Reportedly Rejects Barco Peace Plan

PA1309194988 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The National Liberation Army [ELN], in a communique sent to the news agency EFE today, rejected the peace plan announced by President Virgilio Barco.

The rebel group, through Msgr Dario Castrillon, Democratic Coexistence Commission coordinator, last week promised to release the five geologists they kidnapped. The rebels, however, have so far failed to fulfill their promise.

The ELN's terrorist action against the Cano Limon-Cobenas oil pipeline has inflicted losses worth more than $200 million on the government.

Peasants Flee Bombing; Violence Continues

PA1309191588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1753 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 13 September (DPA)—It was reported in Bogota today that hundreds of peasants continue to concentrate in northwestern Apartado, the Uraba banana region's main city, to protect themselves from military antiguerrilla operations.

The members of 250 families peacefully occupied the Municipal Assembly and the Agrarian Bank (government credit institution) buildings and reported that the military is bombing the region and that the civilian population is endangered.

It has also been reported that four policemen, four rebels, and two police inspectors (chief magistrates) were killed in clashes that took place in three departments: Magdalena, Antioquia, and Cauca.

The four rebels, members of FARC's Jose Prudencia Padilla Column, and the policeman were killed in operations that took place in the northern Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria.

This northern area has been the scene of intense violence for some time and military operations are being conducted there to capture the rebels who assaulted Minca last week. Twenty-three rebels have reportedly been arrested.

Unidentified persons shot and killed three policemen in Zaragoza, a municipality in Antioquia. The shootout has been unofficially linked to the National LIberation Army [ELN].

Unidentified persons also murdered the Vegachi, Antioquia police inspector, Gustavo Garcia Monsalve, 26, who was an active Liberal Party member. The mayor's office had decreed a prohibition on alcohol in the region.

M-19 rebels allegedly killed Araujo Police Inspector Wenceslao Perez. Araujo is located in southwestern Cauca Department.

A bomb exploded in the administrative offices of Antioquia University in Medellin this morning. The bomb caused material damage, but no human casualties were reported. The bomb was directed against a private company that provides security services for the university.

It was also reported today that Emma Isabel Alzate, a librarian at the Colombian Institute for Youth and Sports in Medellin, was kidnapped last week by uniformed persons who said they belonged to the Army's 4th Brigade. The Army denies having arrested her. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Brazilian Army Commander Arrives for Visit

PY1309040088 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
12 Sep 88 p 10

[Text] Yesterday, General Wadir Eduardo Martins, Brazilian Army chief of general staff, and his entourage arrived in Paraguay for an official visit. The high-ranking officer will meet with members of the Armed Forces and will visit military units. He will remain in the country a week; before departing he will be decorated with the Military Merit medal.

Traditionalists Release Founding Day Manifesto

PY1309151288 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
11 Sep 88 p 3

["Text" of paid advertisement released by Traditionalist Movement of the Colorado Party on party's founding anniversary]

[Excerpts] To Colorados of the Republic [subhead]

In its 101st year, the National Republican Association greets the great Colorado People and, at the same time, expresses concern and aspirations regarding the presence of our party on the national political stage. [passage omitted]

These days, the party finds itself handcuffed and persecuted. A Neocolorado group, which has infiltrated the public administration, is responsible for splintering the party's forces by the use of coercion, and by distributing personal benefits, in exchange for servilism.

The gradual displacement of the authentic Colorados, who still want to see the Party Program and an honest, patriotic, and democratic government fully implemented, was completed with the takeover of the party convention on 1 August 1977 by the combined action of the Neocolorado group and some party members who, incapable of reacting, opted to jump on the invaders' bandwagon.

The people have already identified that group of Neocolorados who took over the administration of the party's Government Junta.

That group's ideology, unmasked, amounts to the substitution of the Colorado doctrine by a deceitful populism to distract the people's attention from its inability to resolve the serious problems affecting the nation. The base, insulting language that the group uses to revile fellow party members is intended to cover up their real purpose: To satisfy their material ambitions under the protection of the official mantle. This is the only and true passion that motivates them.

The Colorado Traditionalist Movement pointed out the need to investigate and unmask the real protectors of those who extract dollars from the Central Bank in operations that have depleted the resources of the state and of the working people. It also noted the need to see that this corruption does not go unpunished.

At this time, as we renewed our faith in the Party as an instrument of change and modernization in all areas of the national life, we want to improve the Party's and the nation's historic project, the execution of which has repeatedly been postponed. It is based on our party's ideals, statutes, and programs, which can be summed up in the following purposes:

1) To substitute the hegemony of authoritarianism as a system of government, and to reassert moral values and respect for dignity as basic foundations for political activities.

2) To promote the reform of current laws so as to make possible the unrestricted excercise of the peoples' sovereignty, their democracy in the internal activities of the political parties to prevent illegitimate congressional representation, and to stop the promotion of dishonest and incompetent public servants.

3) To initiate a process for the reunification of the party's splintered forces behind their natural leaders, restoring the legitimacy of the Government Junta and the base organizations which were trampled.

4) To put an end to personalism, replacing it with the banner of loyalty to the institution, its doctrine and programs, as befitting a national party.

5) To fully implement the party program to accelerate projects of economic development and social progress, as a determinant condition for political democracy.

Fellow party members: We do not propose projects that are impossible to implement, indeed, some of them are already under way.

It is up to all Colorados—the youth of the cities and countryside, and especially the renewed Central Committee of the Colorado Youth—to make efforts to reduce the distance between the present crisis and the much desired regrouping of forces as the basis of party unity, an indispensable condition for bringing into realization the dreams of the Paraguayan people in freedom.

Authoritarianism generates, as a reaction, the appearance of totalitarian ideologies which the Paraguayan people and the Colorados view as alien to their nationalist convictions. Let us get ready, fellow party members, to be actors in a full democracy, without excluding anyone, as it was during that historical period of the first Colorado governments headed by Bernardino Caballero and Patricio Escobar.

Today, as the party completes 101 years of existence, we renew our pledge to persevere in the struggle to see the ideals, behind which we are united, turned into magnificent reality, keeping in mind our slogan that A UNITED COLORADO PARTY WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED.

Asuncion, 11 September 1988

[Signed] Dr Juan Ramon Chaves

Colorado Traditionalist Movement